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Raiders cause £1,000 worth of damage Thieves disable local pensioners' minibus to get precious metal

'HOW low can you get!' – that was the reaction of a local voluntary group leader after thieves disabled a community minibus in Dinas Powys, causing £1,000 worth of damage.

As a result, elderly residents in the village are unable to go on shopping trips or be taken to the local health centre.

The catalytic converter had been expertly removed – the incident is one of a number that have

taken place to vehicles in the Vale recently.

The chairman of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, John Fanshaw, said: "The minibus will be unusable for some time. How low can you get! Causing over £1,000 worth of damage to what is obviously community transport."

"We have been very touched by the concern people have felt about the impact this dreadful crime will have on some of the most vulnerable residents of the community."

"The charity relies heavily on fund raising activities by local supporters and also organises a range of social events."

John said the charity had already received gifts from generous members of the public.

"We have already had expressions of support and offers of donations."

"Also we have our regular collection tins at Valley View Fruit Store, both chemists, Budgen's on Cardiff Road, The Village Stores, Marc Griffith the butcher, The Greenroom, Station Road and The Bank of Flowers, Cardiff Road."

In addition to shopping trips and journeys to the health centre, the minibus is used for library visits and social activities such as the WRVS luncheon club on Fridays.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

POPPIES AT THE PLAYGROUP



ABOVE:
Children at Cylch Bethesda playgroup, at Colcot Sports Centre celebrated Remembrance Day by making large poppies. The parents and carers were delighted when they saw their arts and crafts. They also had great fun when they took part in a sponsored bounce to raise money for the group.

Assault: Police appeal

POLICE in Barry are appealing for information following an incident which occurred at around 6pm on Thursday, November 7 on Holton Road.

A 50-year-old local man was walking towards the Waterfront near the car park when he was approached by another man and knocked to the ground and his wristwatch was stolen.

The victim gave chase and was able to recover his property before the assailant fled.

The suspect is described as a white man in his 30s, he was about five feet six inches tall and of slim build with ginger hair. He was wearing a grey track-suit top and bottoms and white trainers.

Anyone who may have witnessed this incident or who may recognise the suspect is asked to contact Barry police station on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 62130352092.

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New pathway in Porthkerry

FOLLOWING strong representations from the public regarding the former road, which runs from Porthkerry Road under the viaduct and through Porthkerry Park, I am pleased to inform GEM readers that an agreement is in place with the landowners for the implementation of a shared footway/cycleway, that will form part of the National Cycle Network NCN route88 which the council is delivering.

I am reliably informed that vegetation clearance of this former carriageway will be implemented during next week in preparation for works to be carried out in December/January.

It is unfortunate that a steel barrier was put in places near the viaduct in 1993 to prevent anti-social behaviour, as a dropped bollard would have sufficed to prevent traffic.

This barrier made the route less commodious for walkers, cyclists, and horse-riders but did not prevent access during this period, as the public managed to pass to the side of it.

Philip Clarke, councillor for Rhooose.

'Cyclists should use paths provided'

PLEASE can someone tell me why the Vale is spending so much money on new cycle paths when the cyclists obviously have no intention of using them?

I frequently get stuck behind several cyclists travelling along the main road, even though there is a perfectly, and probably brand new, cycle

path running alongside, but the cyclists refuse to use them.

As a car driver, it sometimes is really difficult to overtake a cyclist.

Maybe there should be a fine for cyclists who do not use the cycle path.

I do not have a problem with cyclists, but please can they use the cycle paths – surely it has to be safer for them. **Teresa John, Rhooose.**

Rotary and both councils deserve plaudits for fireworks

IWOULD like to thank and congratulate the Rotary Club of Barry on the fantastic firework display they again put on for the people of Barry and visitors on November 5.

The delight on the faces of children and adults alike was a joy to see, and the rain even stayed away for a few hours.

Barry Town Council is pleased to have been a main supporter of this event for the second year running and could not have asked for a better display and organisation.

Thank you also to the volunteers from the

Coastlands Foodbank who volunteered with members of the Rotary on the evening as a thank you for the support the Rotary has given the foodbank this year.

We are very lucky in Barry that the Town Council and Rotary Club, along with the Vale Council, work together to put on this free display for the people of Barry, and I hope that those present dug deep in their pockets and put some money in the collection buckets to help the Rotary Club continue with their excellent work in the community.

Coun Claire Curtis, Mayor of Barry.

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Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'BUS CUTS ARE HARMING VALE VILLAGES' says reader

IAM writing to voice my deep concern and frustration (if not anger) over the discontinuation of the V1 and V2 bus service which stopped running in July of this year.

The actions of the Vale Council, with apparent endorsement by the WAG, in cutting off the lifeline of hundreds of pensioners, schoolchildren and others is something any normal person finds difficult to understand. Are they trying to kill off countryside communities, or what?

Not everyone can afford to take taxis all the time and I have often been forced to walk from the main road to the village where I live, Corntown, along a lonely stretch of country road where motorists are often racing along at 50 miles an hour due to no speed cameras or traffic calming measures to slow them down.

There is no pavement, obviously, and often I am forced to step into the undergrowth.

A number of times my own life has been in danger when cars have swerved out from the left-hand lane to pass a lorry or tractor, oblivious to the fact that a person might be walking on the right side of the road (facing oncoming traffic as is the correct thing to do when walking on roads). Pedestrians

have rights too, not just motorists. But that's not the issue here.

The issue is that there needs to be immediate and effective action to reinstate the discontinued village bus services (and even improve them!) so that people living in villages in the Vale can get to doctors' appointments, go shopping in one of the larger towns, catch a connecting bus to Cardiff or just get out and about.

The GreenLinks service is NOT the answer, run as it is by volunteers who are not available at all on weekends except for groups, and who do not pick up or drop off after 5.30pm, and who are more often than not booked up and unavailable when they are needed.

Why doesn't the Vale Council place a notice in The GEM or any other local newspaper asking for donation of a minibus or similar vehicle from businesses in the Vale (or anywhere in south Wales – Aberthaw power station has already donated one). Surely there are businesses that would be happy to donate a vehicle (or two) to support the GreenLinks community bus service. Of course, safety standards would have to be met.

Until such time as the village bus service is reinstated, the Welsh Government and councils need to be far more aggressive and pro-active and represent the interests of the people who elected them and pay council tax.

They need to stop the callous treatment of people living in the country with cuts detrimental to the day-to-day living of pensioners, schoolchildren and the disabled, who are all vulnerable citizens and have enough problems as it is.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my deep concerns.

Cristel E John (Ms), Corntown.

'Vale needs more affordable housing'

IWAS pleased to read recent letters in support of housing developments in the Vale.

As Mr Howard (October 3) and E Francis (October 31) correctly pointed out, there is a significant shortage of affordable homes throughout the Vale (as evidenced by the Local Housing Market Assessment and the Rural Housing Needs Survey, commissioned by the council in 2010 and the current Homes4U waiting list).

This means many local people cannot afford to live in the areas they grew up in, work in or have family connections to. Both in rural areas and urban towns, such as Barry, there are households who will be paying expensive private rents or struggling to save for a deposit to buy their own home.

My team work with private house builders and registered social landlords to develop new affordable housing across the Vale. Most developments, if approved by the council's planning committee, will include a percentage of affordable

housing. Affordable homes, for rent and for sale, where possible, will be allocated via a 'Local Lettings/ Sales Policy', ensuring local people are given priority for these homes.

The terms of these policies are agreed in partnership with the local community council. This kind of consultation at an early stage is vital in breaking down barriers and dispelling myths and misinformation. Recent successful examples of these policies were used at Chapel Close in St Athan and Thaw Close in Llanfair.

We only support developments where we can evidence sufficient local need, so we would be interested to hear from readers who are unable to afford to live in their local area. We would also encourage readers to contact us if they are interested in low cost home ownership or rented homes and they can do so by calling Homes4U on 01446 700111.

Coun Bronwen Brooks, Cabinet member for housing, building maintenance and community safety, Vale Council.

'Anti-frac' groups are peddling internet myths

AMAZING! I get a letter published calling for a "rational and objective" debate on fracking, so there's an end to unhelpful scare-mongering and the first response is the exact opposite!

Let me first address Mr Hancock's presumptuous attack on my knowledge of hydraulic fracturing (October 31).

After a 35-year career in the exploration of oil and gas during which I designed, engineered and managed hundreds of well operations frequently employing fracking, I consider that I can comment more "comprehensively" on the subject than the vast majority of anti-frac campaigners who get their scant, anecdotal insights from the internet!

I am also able to dis-

credit as ignorant nonsense his claim that the Vale will be peppered by 412 drilling rigs.

An exploration rig drills one well at a time, moves on to the second and so on, to delineate the size of any reservoir.

After the rig has moved on, the wellsite is restored to its former condition.

If ultimately a commercial reserve is discovered, several production wells will be "directionally" drilled from a single location.

That's how fields like the Forties, the UK's largest, produced from a reservoir of 22,000 acres through just five multi-well platforms and not, as Mr Hancock would have us believe from his flawed maths, from 110!

Comparing the Forties to the Vale's potential is not technically the best comparison, but it serves to illustrate "reality" versus unhelpful "fantasy."

L T Greenwood, Cowbridge.

Lydia is a star of Movember!

MY partner, Lydia Johnson, was recently looking to raise some money for charity and suffers with anxiety issues and was stuck for ideas.

She did a bit of research and decided to participate in Movember to help raise awareness of prostate cancer and men's health by wearing sticky moustaches throughout the month of November.

She has found it difficult up to now, but has continued on with her fundraising as she knows that others will benefit as a result of her efforts.

Although she suffers with anxiety issues, it hasn't stopped her so far, not only wearing her moustache out on family events (family meals, firework displays and general shopping trips), she has also been wearing it to work (Murch Junior School!)

It's amusing to hear the children's responses when they ask if her moustache is real or not!

I think she is doing a great thing, and if there are more women out there who are willing to help in charity events mostly aimed at men, then we can get the message across to more individuals.

Rhys Loyns, Dinas Powys.

• Email your letters to The Editor at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk including your FULL NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 21)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Time	
	AM	M	PM	M
14 Thur	03.34	8.7	15.55	9.1
15 Fri	04.24	9.1	16.46	9.4
16 Sat	05.08	9.5	17.30	9.6
17 Sun	05.51	9.6	18.10	9.7
18 Mon	06.27	9.8	18.49	9.6
19 Tues	07.06	9.8	19.24	9.6
20 Wed	07.39	9.5	19.59	9.4
21 Thur	08.11	9.3	20.35	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

'Trick or treat outings must not become begging and blackmail'

A Barry woman has contacted The GEM to point out that 'Trick or Treat' sometimes over-steps the mark.

The woman said that an unpleasant trick was played on her elderly mother who is not well enough to go to the door.

In the lead-up to Hallowe'en, local schools and the police both made efforts to ensure that 'Trick or Treat' trips by young people went off without incident – and in the main they succeeded.

The vast majority of youngsters were accompanied by adults and everything was good-natured.

However, the woman who approached The GEM had a different story to tell.

She said: "To the 'trick and treaters' who put dog poo on my mother's wall in Bron Awelon, I'd like to say, I hope you had a jolly good laugh.

"The spite you showed her would never have been shown to you.

"Up until a few years ago, she could have answered the door, given you sweets

and enjoyed the fun.

"Sadly, at 86 years of age and house-bound, she is no longer able to open the door.

"At 7pm there were around six groups of 'Treaters' in the street, most were accompanied by an adult

"Are children being encouraged to retaliate with a trick when a door is not answered?"

The woman added: "Trick or treat – or begging and blackmail – it seems there is a very fine line."

Residents pay tribute to those who gave their lives for freedom



ABOVE:
Allan Johansson of the Legion with Val Hartrey laying a wreath on behalf of Dinas Powys Village Show.



ABOVE: Scouts and Guides on parade at Remembrance Sunday service.



Civic representatives with their wreaths – Couns M Pritchard, Chris Franks and Keith Hatton

A fine day brought out a large crowd of villagers to mark Remembrance Sunday in Dinas Powys.

Many local organisations were represented on a beautiful Sunday morning in the centre of Dinas Powys.

The ceremonies were led by Mr Bill Frampton on behalf of the Legion. Lay Reader Peter Atkins, who stepped in at the last minute, conducted the service on the Twyn.

Mrs Lynne Johansson led the tributes to the

Legion with support from the Royal Marines Association and the Merchant Navy.

The civic tributes were led by Coun Chris Franks for Dinas Powys Community Council, Coun M. Pritchard on behalf of Michaelston Community Council and Coun Hatton for the Mayor of the Vale.

Then followed political representatives, the local churches and chapels, youth groups, social bodies and sporting clubs.

CF

Neighbours suffer thanks to woman's bird-feeding binge

A SULLY woman has been fined after her long-suffering neighbours complained to the Vale council about rats and swooping seagulls, caused by her excessive bird-feeding.

Like many nature lovers, Irene Webber, of Minehead Avenue, enjoyed feeding the birds in her garden. But gentle birdsong soon turned into a Hitchcockian nightmare when large flocks of her feathered friends, including seagulls and pigeons, started swooping and defecating on her neighbours and their homes, followed by numerous sightings of rats in nearby gardens.

Some of her neighbours have even had to shelter under garden umbrellas to avoid the pooping pigeons.

On October 24, Ms Webber (63) pleaded guilty at Cardiff Magistrates Court to failing to comply with the requirements of a notice served by the Vale Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

She was fined £400 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £40 and

£582 costs – a total of £1,022.

One neighbour affected said: "Since (Irene Webber) became a resident approximately 15 years ago, I have experienced increasing problems caused by the large number of birds, in particular seagulls and pigeons being attracted to this area.

"This increase in the number of birds was clearly being caused by her feeding the birds. This has had numerous effects on myself and my family, with food dropped by the seagulls, constant problems with bird excrement on our windows, cars, clean washing and even on ourselves.

"I and my family are unable to eat outside or have barbecues in our own garden, as the seagulls and pigeons circle above our property and garden. The birds sometimes swoop down to take food and also mess over the area. This increased bird activity also results in accumulations of birds' mess on our property roof and gutters, so that they need more regular cleaning."

Another neighbour said: "If I ever sit in the garden for any length of time, I have to sit under a

garden umbrella because of the amount of birds' mess."

Environmental health officer at the Vale council, Julian Love, said: "Based on the evidence of rat activity, the amount of bird feed on the ground and the large number of pigeons on the roof of the property, it was clear that the level of bird feeding was linked to the problem with the rat activity."

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, said: "While the council appreciates that residents want to feed and encourage wild birds into their garden, excessive feeding can result in nuisance and public health problems. In this case, despite every effort to encourage the resident to change her behaviour, the council had no alternative but to take the matter to court."

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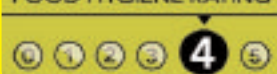
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Any hot or medium curry dish, half & half, plain nan & can of Coke	Naga Noodles £5.95
Deal 3 • £10.95	Patha £5.95
Onion bhaji, creamy or massala dish, pilau rice, peshwari nan & 2 pappadams	Korahi Chingri £7.95
Deal 4 • £12.95	Murghi Massala £6.95
(Excludes King Prawn & Chef's Recommendations dishes) Any 2 dishes, 2 pilau rice, 1 plain nan & 2 pappadams (Sun to Thurs only)	Chicken or Lamb Roshun £6.25
	Chicken or Lamb Rajput £6.45
	Chicken Zai £6.20
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'MAGICAL WEEKEND' AS GALILEE CHAPEL OPENS

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT.



ABOVE: The restored chapel.



ABOVE: Mrs Gladys Kilby cut the ribbon.

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE recent celebration of thanksgiving and re-dedication for the Galilee Chapel at St Illtud's Church in Llantwit Major was hailed as a "magical weekend" by organisers.

Hundreds of residents turned out for the occasion, with St Athan Voluntary Band joining in the brief service led by Rev Huw Butler.

A rededication service was held on Sunday in the presence of the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, with the sermon given by the Venerable Philip Morris, Archdeacon of Margam.

On both Saturday

and Sunday, there were musical performances in St Illtud's Church, and the co-ordinator of these, Lynn Brown, said that it had been a "magical weekend".

The Galilee Chapel was rebuilt in a project that stems back 50 years. The Rev Huw Butler explained in his programme notes that, in 1963, the then Vicar of Llantwit Major, Canon Dilwyn Llewellyn-Jones presented a vision for the future of the 13th Century chapel, which had been a ruin for four centuries.

He said: "This new vision for the chapel is that it will offer a place of welcome to visitors in relating the story of our amazing heritage."

"Illtud's great Christian community, established around 500AD, has been described as a 'cradle' of Celtic Christianity in Britain."

"The early Celtic medieval inscribed stones speak of saints and kings educated at Llanilltud Fawr and are witness to the unbroken continuity of prayer and worship on this holy site for over 1,500 years."

The Galilee Chapel is now home to those stones, and an impressive sight they make. It is intended that the chapel should become an education centre.

Vale MP Alun Cairns was an impressed visitor. He told The GEM: "It was a wonderful occasion and to hear of the history of this place was fascinating."

"The Archdeacon explained that the site marked the place of a monastic university where 3,000 students studied in seven halls of residence, 800 wooden cells with only a tiny wooden church for prayer and meditation."

"St Illtud's now has its unique selling point in the exhibition and education centre and I would encourage all to pay a visit."

The official opening was performed by the oldest parishioner, Mrs Gladys Kilby, who cut the ribbon.

NEWS FROM BARRY MEN'S FORUM



The three young Barry Scouts meet Lord Rowallan,

Rowing all way from Barry to Windsor

THE speaker at the Barry Men's Forum meeting last week, was forum member and scribe Philip Walters who recalled a voyage he made rowing from Barry to Windsor.

In 1957, the 50th anniversary of the start of Scouting, by Baden Powell, it was decided by three members of the 6th Barry (All Saints) Sea Scout Group, that they would repeat a

canoeing trip that BP had done in 1870.

The voyage was undertaken using a 12-foot dinghy, by John Wilkins, Ken Harris and Philip, and the aim was to take a 'Message of Goodwill' from the Scouts of south Wales and present it to the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan at the Annual St George's Day reception for Queen Scouts at Windsor Castle.

He related how they had rowed across the Bristol Channel to Bristol, and then travelled along the Kennett and Avon Canal, which at the time was in its most run down state, and then down the Thames to Windsor.

He reminisced about the trials and tribulations that they encountered, with the canal being dry over long lengths, the weed and rushes that clogged the waterway and 75 of the 106 locks they had to negotiate which were

not in operational condition.

He also talked about railway bridges which blocked their progress, the cold and freezing conditions, and the very long days they spent rowing, towing, poling, sculling and trolleying their 5-hundredweight vessel and equipment, before eventually triumphing, in time to present the Chief Scout with the 'Message of Goodwill'.

The Barry Men's Forum meets every Thursday morning at 10.15am. The meetings are held at the new Trinity Church Hall in Aberystwyth Crescent.

On Thursday, November 21, the speaker will be Mr Don Llewellyn who will be talking about 'The Brains behind the Mob'. For further information, contact chairman Peter Westcott on 594881.

PMW

Charity autumn fayre

THE Parish of St Andrew Major is holding its autumn fayre on Saturday, November 23 at the Parish and Lee Halls, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

The fayre will be opened by Father Christmas at 2pm and children can then meet Santa in his magical grotto.

Visitors can buy hand-made gifts, cards and Christmas decorations, as well as goods from many other stalls, including white elephant, books and cakes. Refreshments, including home-made cakes, will be served in the Lee Hall and the admission includes a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

The Curate of St Andrew Major, the Rev Christopher Seaton, told The GEM that all proceeds from the autumn fayre go to charity, and this is the main charitable fund-raising activity of the parish. Last year, over £2,500 was raised.

Charities receiving donations from this year's fayre will include the Samaritans, Ty Hapus, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and St Anne's Hospital, Lluelli, Tanzania (a children's hospital supported by the parish for many years).

ROTARY'S CHARITY CABARET

DINAS POWYS has many talented residents in various fields, and it certainly does not lack in the world of entertainment.

On Friday, November 1, the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys hosted 'A Charity Night at the Cabaret' at which the entertainment was supplied by a small group of talented performers who live in and around the village.

The parish hall was transformed into a cabaret room with tables decorated with sparkles and candles surrounding the stage, and the evening was brilliantly compered by the talented Mark Thompson.

The group performed various styles of music from Broadway to the West End, as well as some toe-tapping favourites from the silver screen

and songs made famous by various musical legends over the past 50 years.

During the interval the packed audience was invited to 'bring their own picnic' to feast, the adventurous went for full picnic baskets while others went for curry take-away or similar.

The evening was a great success which was highlighted by the closing address given by the Dinas Powys Rotary Club president Tony Stevens, who thanked Rotarians Howard Gaylard and Dougie Curtin for organising and everyone for attending this charity function.

The Rotary Club of Dinas Powys hopes to arrange another cabaret night in the summer next year.

Colin Ll. Jones

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For further enquiries,
or to register your
loved ones on the roll
of honour, please call

01446 407962

lyndsayellis@thevalefuneralservice.co.uk



Delight at All Saints as £70,000 organ appeal hits target



The finished organ.
PHOTO BY RAY PRICE

'High value' bikes stolen in Penarth

POLICE are appealing for information following a burglary at a Penarth bike shop.

Three high-value bikes were stolen overnight on Wednesday, November 6 from Treds in Penarth Retail Park, Penarth Road.

Officers attended after an alarm was activated in the very early hours at around 00.30am.

It is believed those who stole the bikes will attempt to sell them on. Anyone offered any

one of the bikes below or who is suspicious about how somebody they know or have seen has recently acquired one, is urged to contact police.

The bikes are: Cube Hanzpro (black / blue); Giant X29ER (black / blue); Lapierra Spicy 527 (black / yellow).

Anyone with information can contact Penarth Police station via South Wales Police's non-emergency number 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Busy times for Barry parish

THE Parish of Cadoxton-Juxta-Barry is holding its annual Christmas bazaar at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, on Saturday, November 16, at 11am.

Stalls include cakes, bric-a-brac, jewellery, books, bottle, tins and a bargain Christmas stall.

Prize draw tickets will be available with a first prize of a £50 Christmas hamper, with many more prizes.

Father Christmas will be flying in and visiting between 11am and 1pm. He is bringing his favourite Elf with him and a sack full of gifts for all the boys and girls.

The Christmas Tree Festival is being

launched on December 11, when Cadoxton Primary School will be playing the hand drums, and Superstars drama group will be entertaining. There will be more than 40 trees to view and enjoy, and eight school choirs to listen to on December 12-13 between 10 and 5pm.

On Saturday, December 14, Father Christmas will be visiting to have breakfast among the trees with the children (tickets £5, to include a gift).

In the afternoon of December 14, there will be a concert with St Richard Gwyn School Choir and the Barry Choral Society.

Information is on posters outside St Mary's Church or contact the warden on 07866 078665.

SUNDAY May 29, 2011 saw the launch of the All Saints' Organ Appeal in a bid to raise £70,000 for major repair and restoration of its historic pipe organ.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors and supporters, the fundraising committee is delighted to announce that the appeal has reached its target and that the restoration work has now been completed.

The pipe organ dates back to 1915 and was built by Evans & Barr of Belfast.

In 1987, the organ was extended and modified using additional pipework from Salem Baptist Chapel, Porth.

It was re-dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Llandaff on December 8, 1989, and in memory of Dorothy Gladys Holland whose bequest largely financed the work at that time.

In 2011, despite regular maintenance, it became clear that major restoration work was required to enable the organ to continue providing important musical support, both to the church and to the community.

In May 2011, the fundraising committee got down to work with a development plan and started to pull together a programme of events to raise the £70,000 required.

Various groups within the church volunteered to run events, ranging from sponsored walks, autumn lunches, a craft fair, a model railway display, a historical talk, harvest suppers, Viennese coffee mornings, cake sales, a musical minis party and line dancing in support of the appeal.

All Saints' Primary School held a fundraising children's disco and The Little Blue Deli supported with a Eurovision evening and sponsored cake eating.

Throughout the appeal, the fundraising committee, chaired by Suzanne Grover, kept to their task and remained focused, supporting fundraising activities that clearly paid off.

Canon Adrian Berry, Rector of All Saints' Church said: "We are most grateful to all those who have been involved in raising the necessary money to complete the appeal.

"The support of the many groups and individuals from within the church, as well as the fundraising committee, have been crucial to the success of the appeal, together with the support of the wider community and local businesses, as well as grants and other donations received".

The committee also organised/supported some larger events such as a Three Choirs Concert which included Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies Choir and All Saints' Primary School Choir, and 'Last Night at The Proms'

with the Cardiff Concert Orchestra.

Sponsorship

MAY 2012 saw the launch of the Pipe Sponsorship Scheme in aid of the appeal, where both parishioners and members of the community were invited to sponsor an organ pipe(s) in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate a special occasion such as an anniversary, wedding or baptism.

Each donor received a specially prepared certificate, recording who the donation was in memory of, or celebrating along with the type of pipe sponsored.

This element of the appeal raised £11,889 with 91 donors.

Restoration work began in June 2013 and was fully completed at the end of October 2013.

Pipes were removed, re-painted and replaced, soundboards repaired, draw stop machines overhauled and choir and trumpet magnets replaced.

The bellows were re-leathered. The wind system was re-designed and re-positioned, with new motor and trunking installed.

While the refurbishment work went ahead, services ran as normal with the use of a hired organ to support weddings, baptisms and funerals in addition to regular Sunday and weekly services at All Saints'.

The Bishop of Llandaff will be visiting All Saints' Church, Barry on November 24, 2014, and, in line with previous tradition, will re-dedicate the organ.

All are welcome to attend this service, commencing at 10am that will also include the opening of the commemorative 'Book of Donors' prepared by Suzanne Grover along with a photographic record of the restoration work prepared by Liz Matthews and Ray Price.

Following the service there will be refreshments, including a celebratory cake, served in the church hall, together with a display recording the many fundraising events that took place during the appeal.

Recital

THERE will be a free lunchtime organ recital on Saturday, February 1, 2014 to celebrate the restoration of the organ and to thank all donors and supporters. Further details will appear in January 2014.

The Rector and fundraising committee would like to record grateful thanks to all those who have supported the appeal, enabling the restoration work to be concluded, thus ensuring continued provision of this important musical heritage for current and future generations.

ANN ELLIOTT

Close shave for Six Bells!



ABOVE: The popular pub-restaurant, The Six Bells in Penmark had a close shave during recent storms when the gales uprooted a tree. As you can see from the photograph, it fortunately missed the pub, but demolished part of a wall.

Mount Pleasant Church hosts special service to remember your loved ones

ON Saturday, November 23, the community is invited to join funeral directors Lyndsay Ellis and his wife Nicki for a Christmas Memorial Service at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church at 4pm to remember loved ones who have passed away.

Husband and wife Lyndsay and Nicki of The Vale Funeral

Service at Court Road said that the service is their way of giving something back to the community.

Lyndsay said: "This service is a personal gesture from us to all who have lost loved ones recently or in the past and to show that my thoughts are with them at this difficult time."

"This is a community event and whether you have been looked after by ourselves or any other funeral home, all are welcome."

"The service is an emotional and uplifting one, and I hope brings comfort to those who have lost a loved one."

"I invite everyone interested in attending to contact me so that loved ones names can be read out in our roll of honour."

"Over previous years the service attracted over 250 people and the feedback was so positive and this is another reason why I will be continuing the service for many years to come."

"The service will be officiated by Pastor Ken Iveson, with the help of his church family."

"We will sing carols, hear words of comfort,

with some pieces of music as we take time to reflect."

"It will last approximately half an hour and after the service, all are welcome for tea and coffee at Mount Pleasant community hall."

"This is where families will have the opportunity to complete their memorial tags for our memorial Christmas tree with messages for loved ones. Our memorial tree will be at our office, where all are welcome to visit."

Lyndsay added: "I wish to thank all to the church for their assistance, and for making this service possible."

He can be contacted on 01446 407962 or people are welcome to call into the funeral home at 181, Court Road, Barry, for more information.

Choir's concert

AS the Christmas season looms, Bethesda Community Choir is preparing for its annual Christmas concert at Dinas Powys Parish Hall.

This year's offering, titled 'Let There Be...' will be the usual mix of lively gospel and heartfelt songs that intertwine the Nativity story and gospel message with tales of mince pies, presents and snow-sprinkled trees.

The choir has built up a reputation over the years for providing quality performances under the ever-trusty baton of musical director, Mark Thompson that really puts the audience in the seasonal spirit.

An added element this year will be a deeper integration of the main choir.

This time around, the choir is supporting Teen Challenge UK. The Teen Challenge programme was set up by the late Pastor David Wilkerson in New York during the 1950s and works to rehabilitate youngsters who have fallen prey to drugs, violence and other such problems.

Tickets, priced just £5, can be reserved by calling 029 2051 3401 or by emailing bethesdacommunitychoir@yahoo.co.uk.

KW

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ValePlus members shine at show



ValePlus service users with some of the winning entries with tutor Hooda Griffiths.

VALEPLUS, the Vale-based charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, recently took part in the Barry Chrysanthemum Society Show.

A large number of entries showcasing the talents of ValePlus' service users were entered in a number of classes from floristry, home made produce and arts and crafts. Melanie Carter, director of ValePlus said: "We were very pleased that a number of our entries gained first prizes in the show and helped show the work we do at ValePlus to a wider audience."

VALEWAYS WALKS

ON Sunday, November 17, at 2.30pm, 'Wenvoe Woods', starting at the Wenvoe Arms car park.

On Tuesday, November 19 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Hub, visitor centre. On Wednesday, November 20 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Barry Hub, Bridge Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Thursday, November 21 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Rhose Hub, railway station car park.

News from Bryn Hafren School

Geography week helps pupils learn about Third World poverty

RECENTLY, Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School's geography department held 'Geography Week' to raise awareness of poverty all over the world.

Many exciting activities took place, including 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' quiz, food tasting and a treasure hunt.

Pupils in years 7 - 9 and GCSE Geography pupils experienced a lesson in a slum, building one and learning about the conditions people live in.

Bethany Jackson, 7GC, said: "I couldn't believe the conditions some children live in, it's so dirty and small, they



Raising money with the 'cake bake'.

don't even have a bedroom! I enjoy geography as it's good to learn about different cultures and I love all the homework."

Monique Sotomi-Lewis, 9SP, said: "I really can't believe the conditions people live in, it's really made me want to help them."

A cake break was held on Friday to raise money to sponsor an 8-year old child in Uganda called Juliet. The money raised will help fund Juliet's accommodation, education and vaccinations. The cake sale raised £107 for the Christian charity Compassion.

Pupils will write and send photos to her. Geography week was organised by Mr Lewis, head of geography. Mr Lewis said: "I really think all these activities have really benefited all the pupils. We have raised awareness of poverty and I believe many pupils now want to do something about it."

By Camille Daniels and Megan Hewitson. **Face painting** AS part of the year-10 beauty course, pupils took a face painting course.

Bryn Hafren pupils are very fortunate to have two beauty salons to work in and both staff and pupils are fortunate to receive treatments from pupils on a Friday lunchtime in the salon.

Some of the designs created by the pupils in the course were dogs, cats and flowers. Pupils were able to put their skills to good use in the Welsh Baccalaureate fayre recently.

One year-10 pupil said: "Everyone really enjoyed the face painting, especially trying out different characters."

By Ella Taylor and Abigail Brooks. **Design Technology** FOUR Bryn Hafren pupils were chosen to exhibit their work as part of the WJEC Innovations awards recently.

The award ceremony was held in Sofia Gardens, Cardiff, with an additional exhibition in North Wales. Tess Pederson and Cerys Mees were chosen for their GCSE projects. Hannah Gibbon was chosen for her AS-Level portfolio and Danielle Close was chosen for her A-Level project.

These were among 70 projects that were selected from schools all over Wales. The work was chosen by the WJEC examiners, who were looking for the most creative and innovative projects.

Mr Oliver, head of the art and design faculty, said: "I think it shows how creative girls can be to be selected and how innovative Bryn Hafren girls can be."

By Courtney Tooser and J-dene Martell. **European day of languages** ON Friday September 27, Bryn Hafren had its European Day of Languages, which celebrates different cultures and languages and helps promote speaking and learning languages. Throughout the week, there were many activities such as a treasure hunt, food tasting, a language quiz, games, a design a poster competition and a fancy dress competition.

The winner of the fancy dress competition was a year-7 dressed as a French woman, second place was a year-9 dressed as an Irish leprechaun and in third place was a year-8 dressed as a French woman. Even the teachers and canteen staff dressed up too.

The event was advertised by posters, the plasma screen at the front of the school and announced in assemblies and lessons.

Miss K Llewellyn, head of languages, said: "It was a fantastic day and everyone had lots of fun and enjoyed taking part in the variety of activities."

Ruby Redrup, year-9 pupil, said: "I loved dressing up as a Swiss cow."

Jamey Pengilly, a year-9 pupil, said: "The day was great fun and I really enjoyed being the panda from Edinburgh zoo."

For more photographs from European day of languages visit the school website www.brynhafren.co.uk.

By Carys Slack and Emily Owen.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 7) ORDER 2013

1. Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to prohibit the parking of vehicles in the locations listed in Schedule 1

2. Full details of the proposals, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Director of Visible Services & Housing (Ref. IF707, 708, 709 & 711) in writing by 6th December 2013 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

Insert Plan of Proposed No Waiting at Anytime Restrictions.

The Square, Dinas Powys – Plan AL58/7-13

On the north-western side of The Square from its junction with Highwalls Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 8.9 metres.

Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys – Plan AL58/7-13

On the north-eastern side of Highwalls Road from its junction with The Square in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 10 metres.

Cae'r Odyn, Dinas Powys.

On both sides of the road from its junction with Heol y Frenhines south-westerly for a distance of 16 metres.

Heol y Frenhines, Dinas Powys.

On the south-eastern side of Heol y Frenhines from its junction with Cae'r Odyn south-westerly for a distance of 20 metres.

On the south-eastern side of Heol y Frenhines from its junction with Cae'r Odyn north-easterly for a distance of 20 metres.

Castle Drive, Dinas Powys – Plan AL60/7-13

On the north-western side of Castle Drive 7.4 metres from the junction of Murch Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 18 metres.

On the north-western side of Castle Drive from its junction with St Donats Close in a south-westerly direction for a distance of 10 metres.

On the north western-side of Castle Drive from its junction with St Donats Close in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 10 metres.

On the south-eastern side of Castle Drive from its junction with Murch Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 25 metres.

St Donats Close, Dinas Powys – Plan AL60/7-13

On both sides of its road from its junction with Castle Drive in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 10 metres.

Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys – Plan AK59/7-13

On the south-western side of Millbrook Road from the south-eastern building line of property No. 40 in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 13 metres contiguous with "No Waiting at Anytime" parking restrictions.

Dated this 14th day of November 2013

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2013 GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 7) (GWAHARDD AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adranau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 a 124, a Rhan IV Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd 1984 a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004, a phob pŵer galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn. Diben cyffredinol y Gorchymyn hwnnw fydd gwahardd cerbydau rhag parcio yn y manau a restrwyd yn Atodlen 1.

2. Cewch weld y cynigion llawn drwy fynd i'r cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Os oes gennych unrhyw wrthwynebiad i'r cynnig, dylech anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai (Cyl. IF707, 708, 709 a 711) i'w rhannu y 6 Rhagfyr 2013 gan nodi'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.

3. Dylai'r sawl sy'n gwrthwynebu'r Gorchymyn gofio hyn: yn unol â Deddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985, y mae'n rhaid i'r cyngor hwn sicrhau bod unrhyw ymateb a gaiff i'r gorchymyn dan sylw ar gael i'r cyhoedd ei astudio.

Bydd y gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) Gwahardd Aros, Llwyddo a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio 2013.

Cynhwysir y Cynllun 'Cyfyngu ar Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg' arfaethedig.

Y Sgwâr, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AL58/7-13

Ar ochr ogledd-orllewinol y Sgwâr o'r gyffordd â Highwalls Road am 8.9 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AL58/7-13

Ar ochr ogledd-ddwyrainol Highwalls Road o'r gyffordd â'r Sgwâr am 10 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin.

Cae'r Odyn, Dinas Powys.

Ar ddwy ochr yr heol o'r gyffordd â Heol y Frenhines am 16 metr i gyfeiriad y de orllewin.

Heol y Frenhines, Dinas Powys.

Ar ochr dde-ddwyrainol Heol y Frenhines o'r gyffordd â Chae'r Odyn am 20 metr i gyfeiriad y de orllewin.

Ar ochr dde-ddwyrainol Heol y Frenhines o'r gyffordd â Chae'r Odyn am 20 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

Castle Drive, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AL60/7-13

Ar ochr ogledd-orllewinol Castle Drive, 7.4 metr o'r gyffordd â Murch Road am 18 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

Ar ochr ogledd-orllewinol Castle Drive o'r gyffordd â St Donats Close am 10 metr i gyfeiriad y de orllewin.

Ar ochr ogledd-orllewinol Castle Drive o'r gyffordd â St Donats Close am 10 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

Ar ochr dde-ddwyrainol Castle Drive o'r gyffordd â Murch Road am 25 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

St Donats Close, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AL60/7-13

Ar ddwy ochr yr heol o'r gyffordd â Castle Drive am 10 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin.

Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AK59/7-13

Ar ochr dde-orllewinol Millbrook Road, o linell adeiladu dde-ddwyrainol adeilad rhif 40, am 13 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin gan gydgyffwrdd â'r cyfyngu ar barcio sy'n gwahardd aros ar unrhyw adeg.

Dyddiedig 14 Tachwedd 2013

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

YOUNG AND OLD GET TOGETHER



LEFT: Ysgol Bro Morgannwg pupils welcomed older residents to the school for a series of 'getting to know you' events.

EVERYONE'S Future and Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg welcomed members of Barry Monday afternoon club and Barry Friends and Neighbours group for a coffee afternoon.

As part of the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification, the students took part in a workshop on Everyone's Future, a Big Lottery-funded project run by Vibe Experience and Age Connects Cardiff and The Vale of Glamorgan.

During the workshop, the students had the opportunity to discuss the impact of some of the stereotypes of older and younger people that are prevalent today,

and the impact they have in society.

Age equality worker Louise David said: "From troublemaker, ASBO and chav to grumpy, miserable and old, we often fail to see the positive contributions that both generations make."

"It's a shame that younger and older people don't get the opportunities to get to know one another in a positive light more. The students at Bro Morgannwg relished the opportunity and we all had a great afternoon."

After the workshop, students decided to put on a coffee afternoon. Students enjoyed showing everyone around the school and everyone formed new friendships.

Age equality worker Alice Matthews said: "The group members really enjoyed meeting the

students at the school. They were surprised how much school had changed and how many resources were available. I think the best part though was meeting the young people themselves and just having a laugh."

"I think both parties felt differently about one another after taking the time to get to know one another and they would all like to see events these continue."

For more information contact Age Equality Worker (Age Connects Cardiff and The Vale) Alice Matthews, 02920 683694, alice.matthews@age-concern-cardiff.org.uk or Age Equality Worker (Vibe Experience) Louise David, 01446 700622, louise@vibeexperience.com.

LD

Vale MP says that youth groups should be supported

VALE MP Alun Cairns has called on the Vale Council to "fully engage with voluntary youth groups for community benefit activities across the Vale."

In tight financial times, concerns have

been expressed that the Vale Council youth services could face cuts and Mr Cairns believes that working with local voluntary groups such as scouts, cadets, guides, young farmers, among others could deliver better outcomes.

He said: "These

groups provide a fantastic service across all communities and need to be recognised more."

"Scouting is one example of a group who run activities across Barry and the Vale. They are run by volunteers and connect with every community."

"In these tight finan-

cial times, the authority needs to look at new ways of delivering services – the Scouts, Cadets and similar organisations are ideally placed. Supporting these groups financially could achieve so much more."

Alun Cairns said he is keen to work with all these groups and more and is asking for them to get in touch with him to see how he can support their activities.

He added: "Why do we reinvent the wheel so often when we already have such great groups in existence?"

'Hallowe'en more treat than trick'

THE Safer Vale Partnership has praised members of the public, shop owners and partner agencies for the role they played in a successful Hallowe'en across the Vale.

In the run-up to Hallowe'en, the Safer Vale team was working to ensure the evening was more treat than trick.

Residents who did not

want to participate had access to the partnership's trick or treat posters, which respectfully requested that trick or treaters did not knock at their door, to minimise any concerns the evening can create.

Police school liaison officers visited schools to talk to students about anti-social behaviour and safe trick or treating.

Pulse (the youth team), the youth offending service, St John's

Ambulance and the police were out and about across the Vale to promote safe trick or treating, ensuring that young people were aware of the consequences of anti-social behaviour.

As a result of close partnership working, the team engaged with over 100 young people during the evening in various locations across the Barry area and gave out positive 'Stay Safe' messages including staying together, discussing risky behaviour, signposting to services and also who to contact in case of an emergency.

Sergeant Julie Maddoc said: "Traditionally, events such as trick or treating can lead to an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour, and ultimately people's feeling of safety."

"Whether we work for the police, fire service, council, or housing associations, the desire to make communities safer is shared and over the last two weeks it has been a great example of everyone coming together."

"We have seen a decrease in incidents of anti-social behaviour on Hallowe'en compared to 2012."

PACT MEETINGS

COURT PACT public meeting will be held at the Ilminster Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry Library on Thursday, November 14 at 6pm.

A Police surgery will be held for Colcot residents at Colcot Community Centre on Thursday, November 21, between 3pm and 4pm.

CASTLELAND PACT public meeting will be held at The Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry on Monday, November 25, at 7pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT public meeting will be held at The Residents'

Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry, on Tuesday, November 26 at 10.30am.

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT public meeting at Eweny Village Hall, on Wednesday, November 20 at 7pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT public meeting will be held at The Royal British Legion, Penlan Road, Llandough, on Monday, November 25 at 7pm.

WENVOE PACT coffee and chat meeting at The Aubrey Arms, Bonvilston on Tuesday, November 26 at 11am.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Portlouis areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Saturday 30th November
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Enjoy live music from All That Jazz, Back to November, The Bucket Band and Wonderbrass along with the festive street entertainers. Flame Oz will also perform their beautifully choreographed fire show.

The Christmas lights on the Square and on the Christmas tree will be switched on at 6pm.
FREE event

CHASE THE PUD

BARRY ISLAND
PROMENADE

Sunday 8th December
from 9.30am

The British Heart Foundation and the Vale of Glamorgan Council have teamed up to organise this festive, fun, family event, in aid of Vale of Glamorgan Heart Borough and Broken Hearts Appeal.

Be a part of something special and chase the Christmas pudding up to 5 times around the 11km route. Warm up from 9.30am and the jog starts at 10am.

Entry fee is £10 which includes a bright red Santa Suit to wear on the day!

Register online at www.bhf.org.uk/barrysantajog2013 or telephone 0300 350 3322

LET IT SNOW!

CENTRAL PARK, BARRY

Saturday 14th December
10am to 4pm

For one day only Santa and his reindeer will be coming to town!

The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, festive live music, street entertainers and Christmas play workshops.

The day will also feature a Bear called Bjorn - a beautiful animated life size Polar Bear, complete with keeper. **FREE event**



For further details on all events please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com or follow @visitthevale

PUPILS TIME TRAVEL TO VICTORIAN TIMES



No smiling in Victorian times, as this black and white photograph shows.

THE year-four class at Jenner Park Primary School have taken a leap back in time to the days of the Victorians through an exciting immersion day in school.

A school spokesperson said: "The children arrived dressed to impress in an array of fantastic

Victorian style clothing and spent a day as they would if they lived during the era.

"Children used pen and ink as well as slate boards and pencils to record their work and had drill exercises during the morning.

"The girls then spent the afternoon partaking in lessons in cookery, sewing and housework, while the boys had an afternoon of

building, making technical drawings and gardening.

"Although the children had an enjoyable day, most agreed that it made them realise how lucky they are to be going to school in the 21st century."

(In case you are wondering, the children did not smile on purpose in their photo as per photos taken during the Victorian era!).

Metal theft

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

The incident isn't unique. Thieves are anxious to get hold of the precious metals in catalytic converters.

Barry police are warning motorists to be vigilant following a spate of thefts from Mercedes vans.

On Wednesday morning (November 6) two Mercedes van owners from Barry discovered their catalytic converters had been stolen overnight.

Officers believe the same people are responsible for both thefts which occurred in Meadow Vale and Queen Street in the town.

The police advice is that vehicles should be kept in a well-secured garage where possible, and if no garage is available, in a well-lit, public area.

They say people should use alarms, lighting and CCTV to deter thieves.

A police spokesman said: "Mark your catalytic converter - etching the part and spraying with heat-resistant paint.

"If you need more information, you can contact your local crime reduction officer on 101."

If anyone has information regarding the thefts, they should contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

If people would like to offer support or donations to Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, they can contact its office based at the Murchfield Hall during the mornings, tel 02920 513700; or email dpvc@btinternet.com

Ramblers' Bath Skyline Walk

THE weather forecast was not particularly good, but three walkers were lured out to join leaders Janet and John as the Penarth and District Ramblers went for a journey along the National Trust's Bath Skyline walk which affords fantastic views over Bath.

Jane Austen knew Bath as a thriving spa resort, popular with fashionable society and she set two of her novels, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* in Bath, and lived there between 1801 and 1806.

Leaving Bathwick Hill, a street lined with historic houses designated as listed buildings, the group enjoyed their first view of Bath before descending to Smallcombe Farm,

which houses a community nuttury with many varieties of nut trees.

The group passed the American Museum which contains all aspects of American culture, and dogs were excitedly barking in the Bath Cats and Dogs Home in operation since 1937. The group moved on to Bathwick Wood, which is owned and cared for by the National Trust.

In Bathampton Wood the famous Bath stone was quarried, which is prehistoric limestone formed when lime was deposited around shell fragments of sea creatures millions of years ago, and many of the buildings in the city are constructed with this type of stone.

Descending to the Kennet and Avon Canal the group walked on to Bath to sample some of the city's famous Bath Buns that were said to have been invented by Dr William Oliver in the 18th century.

Following visits to the Roman baths his patients would be given a bun, but because it was sweet and sticky they soon began to put on weight, so he withdrew them and replaced them with a hard dry biscuit that was known as a 'Bath Oliver'.

On November 16, meet 9am at Cogan for an eight-mile walk to Henllys that was cancelled from last week; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On November 17, meet 9am at Cogan for a nine-mile walk taking in Coppet Hill and the River Wye; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JS

Learning about puppetry

THE president welcomed members and visitors to the November 7 meeting of Rhose WI at the Community Hall.

After 'Jerusalem', minutes and reports, the gathering settled down to listen to the speaker for the evening.

This was Andrew Bradshaw, a professional puppeteer with over 30 years experience, during which he had worked as puppeteer on Spitting Image, The Muppets and many other TV shows.

His resume of the types of puppets he had used was most informative; most people think of these as being marionettes, when in fact body puppets, life sized hand puppets and also mechanical and radio-controlled devices are used.

Andrew then entertained the audience with a tour de force of puppetry, bringing a large hand puppet to life singing 'Mamma Mia', and finally, using a life sized hand puppet of a 'diva', complete with black feather 'hair' and a slinky red dress.

This final performance demonstrated the physical effort required by the puppeteer to convince the audience,

which by this time had been reduced to tears of laughter and also filled with admiration for Andrew's art and skill.

Giving a vote of thanks, Ray Reynolds summed up the feelings of everyone when she said that she had been vastly entertained by Andrew's performance and that she had learned much about the art of puppeteering.

After tea, members were advised about forthcoming events. On Remembrance Sunday the WI planned to take part in the Rhose parade and service at the community hall, afterwards providing tea and coffee for the congregation.

A craft club will begin at the Rhose Social Club on Friday afternoons, (apart from the third Friday when members play skittles at the same venue). A trip to the Barry pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* is to be arranged. Members were reminded that Christmas donations of festive food and toys would be welcomed by the foodbank.

The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on December 5 at the community hall, Stewart Road when the WI will hold its Christmas social evening.

JJ

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

Will A48 cope with extra traffic?

BELIEVE that the numbers used in the LDP Deposit to claim that the A48 has enough capacity to cope with additional housing along the A48 are inaccurate.

The correct figures show that there is no spare AM peak hour capacity through St Nicholas.

The A48 at St Nicholas and Bonvilston has been given a one-way hourly flow maximum of 1,860 vehicles per hour – but these figures are relevant only for the area outside the villages, with a 60mph speed limit.

According to the Department of Transport document TA 70/99, the A48 (7.7 metres wide at its narrowest point) through St Nicholas has a one-way hourly flow maximum of 1,300 vehicles – this does not take into account the traffic signals at the junction of Dyffryn Lane, for which no figures seem to exist.

Further study of the LDP reveals that the A48 east of Pentre Meyrick (where the speed limit has been lowered) has been given a maximum capacity of 1,300 vehicles, as has Cardiff Road through Dinas Powys.

All the evidence suggests that the actual maximum hourly one-way traffic flow through St Nicholas is 1,300 vehicles an hour. Does the LDP

deliberately not include this inconvenient figure?

A recent traffic count in St Nicholas by the council found that the 2013 average AM peak hour east-bound traffic flow through St Nicholas is 1,180, meaning the A48 is at 91 per cent capacity, not 61 per cent as stated in the LDP Deposit. Given that an average use of road link capacity of 90 per cent or more is stated by the LDP to be overcapacity, the A48 cannot deal with extra AM peak hour traffic.

Page 125 of the LDP 'Highway Impact Assessment' document confesses, what most citizens who use the new £1m signalised junction at Sycamore Cross already know, that this signalised junction struggles with current demands and does not have enough capacity to deal with the projected extra demand from the proposed new housing.

On top of more housing, plans to upgrade Five Mile Lane can only encourage more traffic to use the A4226 and then the overloaded Sycamore Cross junction and A48, or the lane through Pendoylan to the M4.

The LDP has failed to provide any solution to the traffic problem other than 'unspecified' bus priority measures and bus stop upgrades. Curiously, the A48 bus stop upgrades have begun despite the

fact that the LDP Deposit states that developers of new housing along the A48 will be expected to pay for this work.

Traffic speeds are another problem in St Nicholas. In a recent traffic study at the gateway to St Nicholas, close to the location of a proposed new junction for a proposed housing development in the LDP, 90 per cent of drivers were found to be in excess of the 30 mph limit.

Another study, this one at the centre of the village's 30 mph zone, close to the school, found 28,292 vehicles exceeding 34 mph, 3,211 exceeding 44 mph and 151 exceeding 60 mph in just one week.

Extending the St Nicholas 30 mph zone eastwards, as proposed in the LDP, may not provide sufficient protection to those using a new junction on the A48 into a proposed development east of St Nicholas from excessive speeds, but it will increase journey times into Cardiff for residents of Cowbridge, etc.

When commenting on the LDP, Vale residents might wish to include the figures above and consider how all developments will affect their journeys.

Ian Perry, St Nicholas.

'Are jammed roads a price we have to pay?'

THE Vale Council appears to be completely ignorant of the grindingly slow traffic queues along the A4055 Cardiff/Barry road.

Why do we need hundreds more houses than the estimated population figures suggest is needed?

Is a ridiculously jammed road to Cardiff and Barry the price we have to pay to shore up the finances of our council?

What about the health of our children at Dinas Powys Infants School? This school sits on the worst pollution black spot in the

village and the plan is to create even more pollution for the kids to breathe.

Was any thought given to moving this school to the existing St Cyres school site, thereby saving the site for the community and improving our children's health? Was that too radical?

The new health centre could surely have used the current infants school site providing a central, easily accessed new facility, but now it seems our elderly and infirm will have to trudge up a steep hill to the edge of the village to see their doctor! Not too convenient either, if you happen to live in the Twyn.

The huge new housing site on

a vital green wedge around the village, (conveniently changed to allow for housing), is on the route of the proposed by-pass, so if the by-pass is still an option, where will the new route go?

The 50 houses planned for Cross Common Road will pay for a new shared junction; but will this housing and the associated rainwater run-off increase the flooding problem on this flood-plain?

I urge the residents of Dinas Powys to get their objections/comments in writing to the Vale of Glamorgan Council now!

Coun Christopher Williams, Dinas Powys.

'Chase the Pud' and keep our hearts healthy!

FUNDRAISERS from across Barry and the rural Vale are getting ready to go the distance for this year's festive Santa jog.

The event, named 'Chase the Pud', will help raise funds for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) Cymru and takes place on Sunday December 8 at 10am on Barry Island's famous promenade.

The 'Chase the Pud' events are fun for all the family and have a range of distances to suit any runner. This year's event is in partnership with the Vale Council. It will see hundreds of people jog or walk up to 5km along the Promenade dressed as Santa, chasing a Christmas pudding.

Catherine Campbell, fundraising volunteer manager at the BHF, said: "The Barry Chase the Pud event provides the perfect way to kick-start the festivities. With a Santa costume provided for all adults who take part, and children under 14 encouraged to come in any fancy dress they like, it's an excellent way for friends, families and colleagues to get together, share some Christmas spirit and help raise funds for the BHF."

Entry is £10 and £5 for children. Visit the website for more information and to sign up, visit www.bhf.org.uk/barrysantajog2013 or contact Catherine Campbell on 07825 674466 or email: campbellc@bhf.org.uk.

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Big thank you to Good Samaritans

IFELL in Park Crescent on Friday, October 18, and a lady came to my aid.

I was in such shock and unable to get up, so she held me in her arms and then two gentlemen came over to help us. They stayed until the ambulance arrived.

Without their help, I do not know what I would have done.

So my very grateful thanks to three very kind people whose names I do not know, and God bless them!





Elaine Harris, Barry.

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'Challenge Wales' up for £50,000 lottery vote

THE Challenge Wales youth sailing charity is one of only six groups in Wales that have been shortlisted to battle for the public vote and £50,000 of lottery cash in ITV's The People's Millions TV Competition.

Challenge Wales will make a bid for viewers' support to win the £50,000, with the public voting by phone to decide who wins the prize. On Monday, November 25, Challenge Wales will highlight on ITV Wales its 'Turning the Tide' project which focuses on using sailing as an activity to develop self-confidence for visually impaired and blind young people.

Vicky Williams, trustee, states: "Our Turning the Tide project aims to make sailing on Challenge Wales more accessible to visually impaired young people.

"We want to be able to offer them the same opportunity as anyone else and come onboard for a new sensory experience, develop self-con-

fidence, enjoy a fun social activity and make new friends. .

"If we win, the money will be used to provide taster and residential voyages for visually impaired young people and their buddies in north, west and south Wales, provide specialised equipment including an audio-compass and tactile sailing charts and provide transport to make it easy for visually impaired young people to travel from home to the boat."

Challenge Wales volunteers and supporters will be filming a TV appeal with ITV Wales on Friday, November 15 and from now until Monday, November 25 will be raising awareness of the public vote and encouraging people to vote on the night.

To support Challenge Wales visit

<http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/2013-finalists/wales>.

Don't gamble with life – HAVE THE FLU JAB

SOME people are gambling with their lives by not having the flu jab even though they can get it for free, says Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

It warns failure to have the vaccine could lead to those in the high-risk groups ending up on a ventilator or on dialysis – or worse.

And if they think that will never happen to them, Princess of Wales Hospital-based Ant Osborne knows all too well that it could.

Dr Osborne is a consultant in anaesthesia and critical care.

He said: "We see people throughout the year, particularly during the winter, who have respiratory failure due to flu.

"People who are high risk have much less physiological room for manoeuvre. They are more likely to contract flu and less able to fight it off.

"These patients may need to be ventilated, and they could need dialysis or ionotropes to keep them going.

"Some cases are even more complicated, and progress to multiple

organ failure. They need lots of support.

"The course of illness could be a few days on a ventilator, but may end up being weeks. Most patients then need weeks of rehabilitation and some of them die."

Dr Osborne added: "For most people flu is just an unpleasant if short illness, but for some it can be very serious. When you can have the vaccine for free it just isn't worth taking a chance."

ABMU is encouraging people in high-risk groups to have the NHS

flu jab.

They include pregnant women; those aged 65 and over; anyone aged six months and older with a chronic condition; people in long-stay residential care; carers; children aged 2 or 3 years on September 1, 2013; and all children in School year-7.

These groups can be vaccinated free of charge by their GP. Vaccination sessions for children in year-7 will be held in school.

If you are in a high-risk group but cannot

get to your GP you can have the NHS vaccination from specific local pharmacies. Check out our flu vaccination section at

www.abm.wales.nhs.uk.

Mr Osborne said: "We have noticed that, since the flu vaccine has been given out, the number of cases has reduced significantly. So for some people the vaccine will be life-saving."

Llamau's 'Sleep Out' for youth homelessness

ON Friday, November 8, 131 workers from almost 30 businesses from across Wales gave up their beds for the night to take part in the largest 'Sleep Out' of its kind.

Now in its second year as a national event, it is estimated a third more 'sleepers' took part across the UK than in 2012.

Llamau's Sleep Out took place at Cardiff's International Sports Stadium in Leckwith aiming to raise awareness and much needed funds for homeless and vulnerable young people across Wales.

Frances Beecher, Llamau's chief executive said: "This is the second year Sleep Out has taken place nation-

ally and it has become Llamau's flagship fundraising event.

"Not only does it raise an amazing amount of money, it provides a spotlight on the issue of youth homelessness and raises public awareness of this devastating issue.

"Young people need more than just a safe place to stay to leave homelessness behind.

"They need specialist support to tackle the issues that resulted in their homelessness.

"Llamau provides not only this, but also supports young people to access education, training, to find a job and somewhere safe they can call home."

To donate to Sleep Out, you can text LLAM13£5 to 70070 or visit the website www.llamau.org.uk.

DOG OF THE WEEK Bouncer has a big heart

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (01656 725219)

BOUNCER is a three-year-old crossbreed, and is a big boy, with a big heart and a lot of love to give to the right person.

He is nervous with new people, and will take his time to get to know you, but is really worth the effort, as he will be very caring and loyal. He is active, and really enjoys his walks.

He would like to find an adult only home with an owner who is used to large breeds. He is housetrained, and fine to be left alone for a few hours.

If you can offer Bouncer, or any of our other dogs a loving home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend – we are open 12pm-4pm, every day except Monday. You can also see Bouncer and some of his friends on the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk, or for regular updates of our dogs, follow us on Twitter @DT_Bridgend.

Linda Feagan,
Supporter Relations Officer, Bridgend



AM's surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery on Friday, November 15 at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA between 1pm and 2pm. No appointment is necessary.

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Tory leader launches attack on Welsh Government's £8.5m refurbishment

W E L S H Conservatives claim they have uncovered millions of pounds of waste by the Welsh Labour Government when refurbishing their Cardiff offices.

The figures were released by the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, and he said the spend brought to mind "the opulence of the last days of the Roman Empire".

He said the Welsh Government's Finance Minister and Vale AM Jane Hutt has signed off £8.5 million to refurbish the offices – on top of £9

million spent in the last two financial years.

The figures were taken from Written Assembly Questions to Jane Hutt.

Mr Davies said: "The figures include £3.7m on office furniture – including 34 tables (£90,091) at an average of £2,649.74 each; £902,000 on new IT equipment; £80,929 (this year) on new televisions – including a 75" Samsung screen for £6,661; and £595,311 on audio and video conferencing.

Mr Davies said: "These figures demonstrate an appalling lack of judgement by the Finance Minister Jane Hutt.

"Labour cuts are hit-

ting local councils throughout Wales and the Welsh NHS continues to face record-breaking cuts, yet Labour can find millions to pay for brand new televisions, laptops and 'soft seating'.

"Just because you redecorate the living room it doesn't mean you need to buy a flash new flat screen television and while Jane and her colleagues sit in their £3.2 million luxury offices in Cardiff Bay, her own Labour councillors are warning of armageddon for public services.

"Spending more than £6,000 on a 75-inch flat screen TV shows extraordinary extravagance. It all brings to mind the opulence of the last days of the Roman Empire.

"This money could have paid for a cancer

treatment fund such as exists in England, infrastructure investment or to support hardworking people.

"Instead, Welsh Labour decided that it was more important to buy 88 brand new TVs."

A spokesman for the Welsh Government Permanent Secretary said: "Over the past three years we have reduced the number of properties we operate from by nearly 50 per cent, leading to significant and on-going cost savings. But we also have a duty to ensure that the remaining buildings are maintained in a func-

tional and safe condition. "Parts of Cathays Park, which is a listed building, were simply not fit for purpose and required some investment to meet current environmental and operational standards.

"The work at Ty Hywel was the first time the accommodation had been refurbished in over 14 years, and work was carried out to make best use of the available space and repair damage caused by water leakages from the roof.

"The TV screens are by no means a 'luxury', they are used by staff to

monitor Assembly business, with larger screens used for presentations to companies and external organisations and video conferencing facilities used to reduce costs associated with travelling between offices.

"The savings achieved from our cost reduction programme are expected to be considerably higher than the cost of on-going maintenance – with £18m over the period of the current reduction programme, and from 2015 a further £50m reduction in building running costs over the subsequent 10 years."

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You're invited to 'Grow Wild'!

ORGANISATIONS and community groups in south Wales are invited to apply for growing grants between £500 and £5000 from Grow Wild to create exciting, transformational wild flower sites in their local area.

Grow Wild is a £10.5m nationwide initiative to inspire people and communities to come together to sow, grow and support UK native wild flowers, led by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and backed by the Big Lottery Fund.

The Grow Wild community sites programme has more than half a million pounds available over the next three years for local groups and organisations throughout the UK who put forward the most exciting and inspirational ideas to give neglected and uncared-for spaces a new lease of life for everyone to enjoy.

Claire Harcup, programme manager at Grow Wild, said: "We want to hear from community and volunteer groups, including youth groups, who would like Grow Wild to help them realise a vision of transforming an unloved area into a wildlife friendly space in which everyone will love featuring UK native wild flowers.

"It could be anything from a garden that celebrates the area's history and heritage to a project that simply brings unused space back to life for the benefit of local people."

To find out more about becoming a Grow Wild community site, visit www.growwilduk.com for more information.

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The Drop-In Centre Development Trust: Dedication is what you need!

HOW A DEDICATED GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS ARE HELPING TO TRANSFORM A BARRY COMMUNITY

In the centre of Barry a group of devoted volunteers has worked unpaid for the Castleland community for 14 years.

They provide support to local people, put on activities and fun days – all the while giving their time for free.

The Drop In Centre Development Trust is now based at one end of Castleland Community Centre, but as the manager Eileen Moore explained, its story began a couple of hundred yards away.

"In 1999, it was based at 3 Dunlin Court, Barry, and was working on behalf of the housing association, developing a range of support and training services for residents.

"In 2009, the Drop In Centre became a registered charitable concern, and later continued its work from new premises in the local community centre at Belvedere Crescent."

The Drop In Centre volunteers were responsible for obtaining the near half a million pounds for the refurbishment of Castleland Community Centre and the development of the community garden across the road.

The community centre had become run down over the years, but its transformation into a

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

21st century facility has been a huge boost to local people

One of the volunteers, Jenet Lockwood, will be celebrating her 90th birthday in January. She still helps with administration, organising events, and delivering leaflets on local activities.

The Drop In Centre is distinct from Castleland Community Association, but both organisations work in partnership to create a vibrant, busy centre that is a popular hub for local people.

Eileen stressed: "The centre's volunteers are not paid, but the activities they provide include a community café, a Friday club for young people, the community garden, and work experience and placements for the unemployed.

"We also offer debt management and advice, and provide advocacy for vulnerable people and supervised visits for separated couples."

The volunteers put on a range of community events – an Easter celebration, summer school, an August fun day, carol singing and a Christmas dinner for pensioners.

Tomorrow, Friday, November 15, will see volunteers organising a Children in Need event from 6.30pm to 9pm.

There will be performances from Anita's Theatre School, and local youngsters will be singing, dancing and acting – entry is £1. It is another example of the volunteers bringing the community together.

Eileen emphasised: "In order to continue providing funding and support to the community we hope applications to local funding streams will be successful."

The volunteers' efforts benefit people of all ages in the community.

The Drop In Centre Development Trust is already planning for the future, and recently began an exciting new partnership working with Social Firms Wales. In the New Year, the centre will also open an IT suite, giving young and old the chance to develop their computing and technical skills.

For more information on the great work of these selfless volunteers, go to www.dicdevelopmenttrust.com or ring 01446 403549.



ABOVE: Some of the Drop In Centre's dedicated team: Peter Phillips, Eileen Moore, Jenet Lockwood, Matt Dee, Sheila Symes, Tania Dee and Elaine Alford.

'Social Firms Wales' provides vital support to community

Social Firms Wales has been working with Eileen Moore and her team at the Drop-in Centre Development Trust, located in the Castleland Community Centre for several months, supporting the organisation to develop social trading opportunities for the benefit of the local community.

Creating community-based social enterprises will provide local residents with opportunities to work, train and volunteer in their own community, and help with the overall sustainability of the local community facility.

San Leonard, CEO, Social Firms Wales, said: "If only we had more Eileen Moores in

Wales, it would make our work so much easier.

"She has worked tirelessly for many years to support the Castleland community and should be recognised for her contribution to society."

Social Firms Wales is Wales' national support agency for social firm development.

The organisation is committed to the creation of employment opportunities for disadvantaged people who face barriers in the employment market through the development and support of 'social firms'.

The vision is to reduce social exclusion and economic inactivity through labour market integration of excluded groups by the

creation of social firms.

A social firm is just one type of social enterprise. A social enterprise is a business set up to trade in a commercial market place, to sell either a product or a service or a mix of both for the benefit of social good.

In reality this means that any profit or surplus generated at the end of any trading year is not distributed for personal profiteering, but is reinvested in the company to help sustainable commercial growth for the benefit of society.

For more information about Social Firms Wales, or if you require support, advice and guidance, telephone 07799 345 940.



ABOVE: Cafe volunteers Ann Evans and Debbie Phillips.

Cardiff & Vale Citizens Advice Bureau

are pleased to support The Castleland Drop In Centre and wish them continued success

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Libraries are making old photos available

A CAMPAIGN to put Barry's history online is calling for residents to search their attics for old photographs to add to the growing collection.

Library staff behind the 'Picture the Vale' project held the first 'Digital Heritage Day' at Barry Library in October, and residents raided their photo albums for images of Barry to add to the online catalogue.

An exhibition of old photographs generated a lot of interest and several members of the public were able to identify locations and tell stories about some of the pho-

tographs. Several people brought in photographs, collections of local postcards and other memorabilia, and volunteers are now hard at work cataloguing the photographs.

Vale libraries are calling for residents to bring more photographs to the next event at Barry Library on Friday, November 29, from 10am to 4pm. All images will be scanned and returned to the owner.

The digital heritage days form part of the 'Picture the Vale' project, funded by a grant from CyMAL, in collaboration with People's Collection Wales.

Airport chief Jon speaks at leadership event

THE chief executive of Cardiff Airport will discuss the implications of returning to a former place of work at a special event this month.

Jon Horne, who took over the running of the airport earlier this year, was the airport's managing director between 2001 and 2007, before

moving to other senior posts in the aviation industry.

The Welsh Government bought the airport in April this year and appointed Mr Horne soon afterwards.

He will give a rare insight into his thinking behind returning to the airport, when he speaks at an event organised by Leadership & Management Wales, the

Welsh Government's centre for excellence for leadership and management development.

'An Audience with Jon Horne' is part of LMW's Challenge series, and will take place at the airport on November 14. The event is free, but places are limited and must be booked.

"Chief executive of Cardiff Airport is one of the most high-profile and highly-scrutinised management positions in Wales," said LMW's director Dr Barrie Kennard. "Jon's decision to take up this challenging role, six years after leaving, surprised some observers.

"It will be fascinating to hear his thoughts on how going back can sometimes be the right way to move forward."

To book a free place at the event, go to: <https://www.lmw.org.uk/event/an-audience-with-jon-horne-the-return-flight/> or phone Leadership & Management Wales on 029 2087 6560.

Poison fat is threat to dogs

THE Vale Council is reporting cases of rancid fat washing up on the area's coastline.

There is no threat to human health, as long as it is not ingested, but there is a problem with dogs eating it. Several dogs in the Ogmore area have needed urgent veterinary treatment for serious poisoning.

The council's environmental health officers are investigating and say there were similar cases on the Cornish coast a few weeks ago. They are advising dog owners to keep their dogs off beaches. Children are unlikely to be drawn to the material, but, of course, parents should keep their children away from the substance.

The council's waste management department will be inspecting and clearing the coastline of the white substance on a daily basis until it stops washing up on the beaches.

NEW LOCAL ART EXHIBITION ATTRACTS CROWDS



Admiration for local artist Margaret Brown.

SATURDAY saw another large entry into the Winter Open Art Exhibition, at the Travellers Gallery in the Mind Café, on Platform 1 on Barry Station. (www.mindinthevale.org.uk).

The changing art exhibitions are a joint venture between the charity and the Vale of Glamorgan Artists group (www.vogavaleart.org).

Visitors and travellers to the café on Platform 1 can now see a great variety of local artistic talent on display, as well as enjoy good food and a warm welcome from the dedicated staff.

The exhibition runs until January 10, 2014; 7am - 12 noon each weekday.

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The First Step to a Better Smile

Free computer course on offer

THE Vale Council-led Barry Communities First team, in partnership with Vale of Glamorgan Adult and Community Learning, is launching a basic IT skills course in Barry Library and the Community Enterprise Centre, next door to Holm View Leisure Centre.

The five-week accredited course is aimed at those who have never used a computer or are very inexperienced. The first round of courses will start on Monday, November 18 with the one at the Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, running

from 10am - 12pm and one at Barry Library from 1pm - 3pm.

Spaces on these courses are limited but more courses will be running from the beginning of January. To be eligible, you must live in a Barry Communities First area which includes parts of Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland, Court and Gibbonsdown.

For more information or to book a place, telephone 01446 709541 or email Communitiesfirst@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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£1,000 raised for great cause Candy's Shop of Horrors show for charity!



There was a 'Candy's Shop Of Horrors' charity event on November 8 at The Savoy in Barry to raise funds for Cancer Research Wales. It was a Hallowe'en themed burlesque evening and raised £1,000. Among the performances were 'Thriller', 'Timewarp', and 'Phantom of the Opera'. The performers are pictured with organiser Anna Prin who is shown front right.

Council starts review of its library services

THE future of the Vale Council's library service is to be the subject of a public consultation.

A review of the library service started in September and it was decided that both library staff and Vale residents should be asked for their views on how the service might be provided in the future.

Providing a library service is one of the council's 'statutory' duties – it is required by law to provide one.

Coun Stuart Egan, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for adult services, who is leading the library review working group, said: "We know our library staff provide a successful and popular service and we want to look at how we can best protect our libraries now and in the future. Many councils are trying new ways of working with communities to create sustainable library services, and we want to do this too."

"It is not only the

financial challenges we are facing, the internet is changing the way many people use libraries. As part of the review we will be looking at some of the innovations introduced elsewhere to see if they would work here in the Vale to provide modern affordable services.

"We'll be talking to our library customers, staff and Vale residents in general, to find out how we can best provide the service that people want, while still meeting our challenging savings targets."

The consultation survey will be available on

the council's website, www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, from Wednesday, November 20 until Sunday, December 15.

The survey will also be available in libraries from Monday, November 18.

The first report on the library service review went to the council's life-long learning scrutiny committee on Monday, November 11 and the report can also be seen on the council's website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. The review is expected to be completed in March 2014.

Adoption campaign is supported by AM

ELUNED are preventing **PARROTT**, potential adopters from coming forward.

Assembly Member for South Wales Central, is backing a campaign to encourage more people from all backgrounds to consider adoption, as new research reveals that myths

Figures show that a fifth of Welsh people believe single people are not eligible to adopt and a charity is worried this misconception may have contributed to the low number (nine per cent) of adoptions by single people last year.

The 'Adopting Attitudes' exhibition was unveiled in the Senedd on November 6, 2013 and is available to view online at www.nationaladoptionweek.org.uk/adoption/stories/adopting-attitudes.

Those looking for more information on adoption are advised to call the Adoption UK enquiry line on 0844 848 7900 or email wales@adoptionuk.org.uk.

GEM PROPRIETOR HONOURED AT VETERAN CAR RUN

SIR Ray Tindle, the proprietor of The Glamorgan GEM, was recently honoured by the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run.

Hagerty International, the UK's classic vehicle insurance specialist, presented the Hagerty London to Brighton Veteran Car Run Achievement Award on Saturday evening prior to the run.

Tindle Newspapers' representative, Christopher Linton-Willoughby, accepted the award on behalf of Sir Ray Tindle.

"Sir Ray's involvement with the Veteran Car Run has helped the event become what it is today," stated Angus Forsyth, managing director of Hagerty International.

"His continued support as a sponsor,

coupled with the fact that this will be his 50th entry into the run should be recognised.

"I am greatly honoured to accept this award on behalf of Sir Ray Tindle", said Christopher when presented with the silver trophy.

"On behalf of Sir Ray and all participants, we all remain enormously grateful to all the companies involved in putting on this spectacular event. Sir Ray's own involvement has given him years of pleasure and he is delighted to receive such a prestigious award."

The Royal Automobile Club's 2013 London to Brighton Veteran Car Run, took place on Sunday, November 3. The world's longest running motoring event celebrated its 116th anniversary of the 1896 Emancipation Run.

For more information visit <http://veterancarrun.com/>

Police seek local man

POLICE in the Vale are appealing to the public for information as to the whereabouts of 23-year-old Teejay Thomas.

Thomas, who is from Llantwit Major, is wanted on recall to prison. He is also believed to have connections with the Cardiff area.

Anybody with information as to his whereabouts is asked to contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, quoting reference number 62130351356, or the individual should hand himself in at the nearest police station.



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Legal advice for senior citizens

HAVE you a legal issue that you need help with? Then why not come along to The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, where a solicitor from Passmores will be able to give advice and guidance on any legal issues.

This will be held on Tuesday, November 19 at 10am to 12 midday. No appointment is needed. Contact 01446 732385 for further information, or just come along. GF

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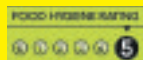
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RIGHT: The Keeble family of 'Food for Thought' is celebrating 30 years of service to the local community - that's Lynda, Dave, Leroy, Nathan and Sarah.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT CELEBRATES 30 GREAT YEARS ON HIGH STREET

FOOD for Thought, the popular deli, is celebrating 30 years of serving people on High Street, Barry.

It is a family concern and was started by Dave and Lynda Keeble in the early 1980s. Dave's son Nathan explained: "My father used to do catering for top bands like Queen and Elton John. He is from Barry so when he wanted to open his own delicatessen, he decided it should be here - that was in 1983."

The venture thrived and is now run by Nathan and his wife Sarah. Their son Leroy is now taking the Keeble tradition to a third generation.

The deli sells a mouth-watering range of meats, cheeses, jams, chutneys, herbs and spices, along with confectionary products.

At lunch time, Food for Thought is a popular destination for picking up made to order baguettes, sandwiches, rolls and paninis.

It can supply all your Christmas foodie requirements, and has just introduced an exotic range of American sweets.

The shop will be open on Christmas Eve from 6am to 3pm for those last minute purchases. Christmas order forms can also be downloaded from the website: www.foodforthought-barry.co.uk/.

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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



JUST 15 DAYS UNTIL THE BIG CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON AT BARRY'S HIGH STREET

ONE of the great days in Barry's calendar is the switching on of the Christmas lights in High Street.

This year it will take place on Friday, November 29, and there will be a special festive competition for the children on that day.

The acting chairman of High Street traders, Bob Armstrong, told The GEM: "The competition is going to be for children to draw a set of Christmas lights. The person with the winning entry will see their design produced, and a part of next year's

lights!"

Traditionally, thousands of people descend on High Street for the 'switch-on'. People don't just come from Barry and other areas of the Vale; some come from as far away as Cardiff and the Valleys.

People enjoy the excited, friendly atmosphere, the outstanding shopping, and the thrill, that with High Street illuminated, Christmas is just around the corner.

Bob added: "We have also got great entertainment on the

night including 'Fanshaw's Performers', Archibald Grottington and Herbert Skittle, otherwise known as international award-winning magic entertainers, Jasper Blakeley and Frank E Haschka.

"There will be children's rides, bouncy castles, Punch and Judy, choirs and theatrical performances."

Island Road will close at 1.30pm on the day. The main closure of High Street will take place at 3pm, and the roads will open at 9pm. The lights will be switched on between 5.45pm and 6pm.

Great Christmas shopping can only mean a visit to Barry's own West End...



Ian and Jodie of Butterflies can advise you on their popular Yankee Candles

BARRY'S West End – High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street – has never had a better selection of Christmas presents and offers.

Festive shopping can be a stressful experience, but a few hours browsing the local shops will calm those nerves and pay rich dividends.

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Miss Holmes is a classy boutique full of great gifts, and is an example of a business that has something for everyone.

The owner, Nicola, explained: "Miss Holmes stocks a range of branded gifts for all the family.

"We have done the legwork for our clients by selecting the top 10 best sellers across a number of brands, saving them car parking charges elsewhere and supplying them locally in High Street.

"We offer a personal shopping experience, helping people to select the perfect gift for their nearest and dearest.

"Do your Christmas or gift shopping in-store with us and you can take advantage of our interest free payment plan – just ask for details.

"We also offer a gift wrapping service for those a little less creative – something extremely popular with our male customers!"

She pointed out: "Bulaggi bags, powder scarves, woolly hats and mitts, in beautiful chunky knits, have just arrived for the new season.

"We also have Nougat Naturals, the exciting new addition to the Nougat London collection; Ted Baker Handbag Essentials; Christmas decorations and stocking fillers.

"Call in the store today and sample the latest Christmas fragrances for the very popular Fragrance Lamp. Mention The

GEM and you will receive 10 per cent off for every £50 you spend!"

Nicola suggests gift vouchers as an alternative gift.

TRADITIONAL

If you want to celebrate a traditional Christmas, Giggles Toyshop in High Street is a must visit.

Marie Jones opened in February and has been delighted with the response of local people.

"We sell lots of traditional wooden toys, soft toys, rag dolls, stocking fillers starting at just 40p, 'Melissa and Doug' children's costumes, remote control stunt racers, and 'chuckling and rolling' animals.

"One of the best sellers is the puppet theatre."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

HIGH STREET BARRY CHRISTMAS EVENT FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to participate in the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be Closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 29th November 2013	High Street Barry, between Market Street and East Street	3.00pm to 8.00pm
Friday 29th November 2013	Island Road Barry, between Broad Street and Queen Street	1.00pm to 9.00pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place. Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 14th day of November 2012

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Mark Osman of Still Images can provide photographic gifts that will last a lifetime.



Dr Bobs Balloons Unlimited can create great Christmas decorations for you, and has all the accessories for your Christmas party.

RIGHT: Giggles has a great range of traditional toys for children.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

For that extra special present, a short walk to Island Road and there's Beespoke Jewellery which is a diamond specialist, but is also expert in repairs and remodeling.

IMAGES

Mark Osman of Still Images, photography and framing experts, emphasised that he offers presents that last a lifetime – individual or family portraits, or boudoir shoots. Images start at £25, and there are a number of packages available.

Customers can either pay to have photographs taken or purchase vouchers towards them, starting from just £25.

Mark said: "I moved here two years ago and just last week had two repeat customers among my clients - that demonstrates the business is growing."

"I'm going in the right direction because when I've made money I've ploughed it back into the business."

Mark's facilities are impressive: he has two light, spacious studios, a boudoir set, and a make-up area. Nothing is left to chance in the search for the perfect photograph. (Mark is also expert at delivering those memorable wedding images).

BICYCLES

Since the Olympics, British people have become obsessed with

cycling – where once we were also-rans, we are now world beaters, and Beespoke Cycles on High Street provides all the bikes and expert advice you will ever need.

Gerard Davies said: "We stock a large range including BMX mountain bikes, road bikes, racers and hybrids, along with a comprehensive range of accessories."

"We also have a Christmas savings club that can help towards your purchase."

"The shop has top

makes including Saracen mountain bikes, Dawes, Moda, Dirty, Sunday and Probike."

Beespoke Cycles will also provide vital back up with servicing and repairs.

CANDLES

Butterflies, run by Jodie and Ian Weaver, boasts some of the world's best candles – Yankee Candles, which have become a world-famous brand.

Jodie said: "We are the largest stockist in the Vale and when we hold events, the branch is packed. Customers

can pop in and see us or go to our Facebook pages 'Yankee Candles of Barry' or 'Butterflies Barry'."

So what is so special about the candles?

Ian explained: "They comprise triple-layered wax, have fragrance and last a long time."

The fragrant smell in the branch bears testimony to the allure of Yankee Candles.

Jodie and Ian also sell Boofle – children's plush toys.

'Down to the Wood' BARBER SHOP



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Antony, Matt and Jack wish all customers a Merry Christmas

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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



Ladies... book early for that hair or beauty appointment



ABOVE: Michaela (pictured) and her staff at The Beauty Clinic have late nights on Thursdays and Fridays until 7pm.

FOR ladies getting ready for the Christmas party season, now is the time to book an appointment for a special beauty treatment or to have their hair done.

West End provides just the solution – The Beauty Clinic, which offers a full range of beauty treatments by fully qualified therapists, is based in High Street; and Salon 23 is located on Broad Street.

Sessions and appointments in the lead up to Christmas go quickly, so it is advisable to think ahead, and book now. The Beauty Clinic has late nights on Thursdays and Fridays until 7pm, and is open on Saturdays until 5pm (tel 01446 743222).

To book an appointment at Salon 23, tel 01446 733596.

Three top shops host exclusive evening event

THERE'S a special Christmas shopping evening

from 6pm to 8pm on Thursday, November 28 at High Street, Barry.

It is an exclusive event hosted by Jones & Jones, Miss Holmes and Bryls Boutique. A dazzling 10 per cent is off everything on the night from all three stores!

View the full collections of designer eyewear and sunglasses from Tom Ford, Swarovski, Diesel, Givenchy, Police and Ted Baker, gift vouchers will also be available on the night!

View the latest Christmas gift ideas and pick up that perfect gift at Miss Holmes, with ranges from Cath Kidston, Ashleigh & Burwood, Woodwick, Willow Tree, Carrie Elspeth, and the Nougat beauty collection – there will be plenty of Christmas goodies to tempt you!

Step out in style this festive season, and pick up your party wear at Bryls Boutique. View the current season delights from Ted Baker, UGG, Traffic People, French Connection and Great Plains, to name a few!

It is an ideal opportunity to find that Christmas gift for someone special, and enjoy a mince pie and glass of fizz!

Making preparations for the Christmas turkey!



ABOVE: Tony Hopkins of Vic Hopkins and Son told The GEM: "People can pick up their Christmas order forms at the store. They need to get them back to us by Tuesday, December 17 with their £10 deposit."

An Exclusive Christmas Shopping Event

Looking for that perfect gift?

Great discounts on designer clothing, eyewear and accessories.

THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2013

6pm to 8pm at High Street, Barry

10% off

EVERYTHING on Thursday 28th November 6pm-8pm

Full collections of designer eyewear and sunglasses from:

Diesel • Tom Ford • Givenchy Swarovski • Police • Ted Baker

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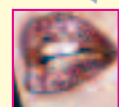
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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



LEFT: Julie Rogers of Salon 23 on Broad Street is already booking clients in for their Christmas appointments.

TOP SERVICE ON HIGH STREET!



ABOVE: Gerard has a great range of bicycles at Beespoke Cycles. The business also offers back-up and servicing, and lots of expert advice.



Naga has just opened on Broad Street offering Indian cuisine to take away.



LEFT: Matthew of Sanctuary Fancy Dress and Gifts has a great range of festive outfits on offer.

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LEFT: Dr Bobs Balloons Unlimited will always help put the fun into your Christmas!

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**High Street, Broad Street,
Island Road &
Market Street, BARRY**

'Hair Design' celebrates its 10th birthday!



Congratulations to everyone at 'Hair Design' by Lauren Anderson which recently celebrated its 10th birthday.

Hair Design has enjoyed trading from several locations in and around High Street, Barry, and is now settled at 2 Island Road.

Larger premises means that a full beauty service is also now available through Sam at Beautify.

A lot can happen in ten years - dozens of trainees have completed their work experience at Hair Design, families have grown and changed, babies have been born, and

through it all, Hair Design provides not only a professional service, but also that special cup of coffee and a warm welcome, just when you need it.

Special mention should go to Leah, Louise, Niki, Becky and the many, many others we've worked with over the years.

"It's the kind of place where your clients become your friends," said Lauren.

"I want to say a big thank you to all my lovely clients. I have the best job in the world, and it's because of them I get to do it."

Happy birthday Hair Design!

The Borough Arms
WEEKDAY
HAPPY HOUR:
12-5pm - £2.50 a pint

Christmas & New Year opening hours:

CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH DEC
12.00 - 23.30

CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH DEC
12.00 - 14.00; 19.30 - 23.00

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12.00 - 01.30

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NEW YEARS DAY 1ST JAN
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'Remembrance Day' in Barry draws hundreds to Cenotaph

PHOTOGRAPHS
by GLYN EVANS

ON a sunlit Remembrance Sunday a large crowd attended the Cenotaph to express their thanks for the people of past generations who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today.

The Vale's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, told The GEM: "On Remembrance Sunday hundreds of people gathered together at King Square and progressed to the Civic Offices where wreaths were laid prior to a moving ceremony at the Cenotaph at the Memorial Hall.

"It was significant that so many people of all generations came together to remember those who gave their lives in the world wars and more recent conflicts."

The Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, stressed the importance of the younger people being aware of the sacrifice of past generations.

"Through The GEM, may I please pass on my thanks to the Royal British Legion for organising such a successful Remembrance Day march in Barry.

"I would also like to thank the people of Barry for lining the streets and surrounding the Cenotaph to show their respect for those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces.

"I was also delighted to see so many children and young people taking part in the march including various Brownies, Beavers, Scouts and Cadets' groups because it is important that we teach the next generation of citizens the sacrifice so many have made and continue to make to ensure we live the free life that we do today.

"Following the wreath-laying, a service was held in the Memorial Hall and both downstairs and upstairs were full of the people of Barry who wanted



to be part of this act of Remembrance.

"Next year will see the anniversary of 100 years since the start of the Great War and this will be the opportunity for our children to learn of the devastation of conflict but also about the sacrifice made by so many during those few years.

"There may no longer be any living survivors of the First World War, but we will continue to remember them not only during the commemorations next year but we shall continue to show our gratitude every year on Remembrance Sunday," she added.



'Thanks to those who organised commemorations'

FOLLOWING the weekend's Remembrance Sunday services, I wanted to write to thank all those involved in marking such an important commemoration.

Although I could only attend the parade and service in Barry, I know that similar events were being held at the same time throughout the Vale.

The turnouts were amazing and showed the special place in which war veterans and their families are held locally and nationally.

I was especially proud to see the involvement of young people, standing side by side, in respect, to some of our oldest veterans.

These events don't just happen. Members of the Royal British Legion and other local civic groups go to huge lengths to organise the parades and services, along with the clergy, police and many others. All these efforts need to be recognised.

We owe so much to those who have served - and their families. Let's not forget.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale.

Clooney and Bullock out of this world in space-set drama

ALFONSO CUARON is easily one of the most talented, and underrated, directors working in cinema today.

Having dipped his toe into blockbuster territory with *Harry Potter* and *The Prisoner of Azkaban* (the best of the franchise in my humble opinion), Cuarón delivered the irresistible *Children of Men* in 2006 before dropping off the radar.

However, he has reappeared with *Gravity*, a film that stars Sandra Bullock and George Clooney as two astro-

nauts who, when their spaceshuttle crashes into a satellite with them stuck outside, are stranded in space with limited air. In order to survive, the pair must work together while battling near-insurmountable odds...

Alien popularised the tagline that 'In space, no-one can hear you scream'; if you thought that possibly somebody could, then your sense of isolation will only be ramped up further when you watch *Gravity*.

Many a film has been set in space, but until now no film has managed to capture the scope, fear and exhi-

lation of being 600km above the earth as Alfonso Cuarón and his team have here. Coupled with an against-all-odds story of survival, you have what is one of the most tense and thrilling examples of filmmaking this year.

The fulsome praise deserved by this film starts off with Cuarón's direction, a masterpiece in long, languid takes that manage to mix drama and humour with a hefty dose of pathos, ratcheting up the tension before calming you with some of the most beautiful shots of space, then going through the whole process all over again.

Technically it is astounding, the hard work, effort and attention to detail vividly realised on the big screen (and this is the only place to watch it, especially in 3D that envelops you).

The special effects are stunningly realised, looking every inch like the sort of footage you would see on the news of a space walk, and Cuarón's camera glides effortlessly through this, capturing the dangerous wonder of space gloriously well.



by **GARETH JAMIESON**
Follow Screen
Talk on Twitter -
@GEMScreenTalk

If the story itself is overtaken by the technical work then it's only because it's pared back, a simple tale of humanity attempting to overcome and survive, mixed in with a hint of backstory that emphasises the precious nature of our lives.

Thankfully, there are no cuts to a panicked ground control, no diversions into contrivance. In lesser hands, it would play with a TV movie-esque air, but Cuarón and his son Jonas manage to craft a story that appeals to the heart as much as the nervous system.

Shouldering much of the running time, both

Sandra Bullock and George Clooney are superb, the former a nervy first-timer having one hell of a day, the latter a wizened, wise-cracking old hand doing one last job.

Again, these are archetypes, but, between the screenplay and the performances, become so much more, with Bullock in particular hugely impressive.

At 91 minutes, it doesn't hang around any longer than it needs to, packing a great deal into its running time, and its economy is another trump card.

Your nervous system may not be able to han-

dle any more of *Gravity* than you're offered, but to miss out on such an incredible big-screen experience is something I wouldn't advise!

VERDICT: An impressive, immersive thrill-ride that is stunningly beautiful. *Gravity* is a truly outstanding piece of work.

There are wonderful performances from Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, but the real star of the show is Alfonso Cuarón, whose direction and visual sensibility makes this a mesmerising film.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Apollo 13* (1995), *Buried* (2010).

Penarth Leisure Centre supports Children in Need

PARKWOOD Community Leisure staff at Penarth Leisure Centre are supporting Children in Need tomorrow, Friday, November 15.

All staff will be wearing their denim jeans and donating £1 each.

A spokeswoman said: "We will also be holding a raffle where various prizes have been donated from local companies. Tickets will cost £1 per strip and can be purchased at the leisure centre."

"We will be selling various cakes and cupcakes too, with all the money being donated to Children in Need."

The event lasts all day from 6.30am until 10pm.

Tenovus choirs live at WMC

MEMBERS of the Tenovus 'Sing with Us' choirs from across Wales will be sharing the spotlight with some of the biggest names in Welsh music at a 70th birthday gala concert for Tenovus, Wales' leading cancer charity.

The concert, on December 1 at the Wales Millennium Centre, will be hosted by Tenovus patron, Rob Brydon.

The evening will be a chance to celebrate 70 years of the charity's history and achievements in style, as well as looking to the next 70 years of support for cancer patients and their families in communities across Wales.

Rosie Dow, Sing with Us manager, Tenovus, said: "Our Sing with Us project now supports over 500 people affected by cancer every week through singing."

"Our choirs sing a range of uplifting songs, and we also have a brand new song to perform for the first time on this very special occasion, which we're

really excited about. "It really wouldn't be a Tenovus celebration without a Sing with Us choir performance!"

Tenovus patron and host for the evening, Rob Brydon, said: "It's my pleasure to be able to be a part of such a special night at the Wales Millennium Centre, celebrating 70 years of Tenovus."

"I'm looking forward to a big birthday celebration and seeing the brilliant Sing with Us choirs perform!"

Tickets range from £19-£49 and are available directly from the Wales Millennium Centre wmc.org.uk or by calling 029 2063 6464.

For more information about Tenovus' 70th birthday celebrations, the gala concert and the support that Tenovus provides across Wales, visit tenovus.org.uk or call 029 2076 8850.

To join a Tenovus Sing with Us choir, visit tenovus.org.uk or call their Freephone Cancer Support Line, 0808 808 10 10.

Lay off Paul Potts!

ON behalf of many friends and neighbours who attended the Odeon to see Paul Potts' biopic, we all disagree with Gareth Jamieson's views on this film.

It was thoroughly enjoyed by many, being humorous, sad, and certainly well played by all the actors therein, and Paul's singing was superb.

It appears that Jamieson seems reluctant to applaud the likes of Paul and Susan Boyle, who have arisen to high places and attained something very special with their lives.

With due respect, surely writing a paragraph in *The GEM* is not quite the same!
C Thomas, Bridgend.



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Out and About with The GEM

Philatelic society's autumn fair

BARRY Philatelic Society is holding an autumn fair of stamps, postcards and postal history along with national dealers at the Highlight Community Centre, Barry.

It runs from 10am to 4.30pm on Saturday, November 16, admission 50p. Refreshments available. The next fair will be on Saturday, May 3, 2014.

For more details, telephone 01446 741026.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and Town Councillors for Buttrills and Court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, November 16 from 10am till 11.30am in the meeting room of Barry Library, King Square. No appointment necessary.

Model club's annual Open Day

THE Barry and Penarth Model railway club is holding its annual Open Day at Cadoston Conservative club on Saturday, November 16. The doors open at 11am and close at 5pm.

The admission cost is £3 for adults/senior citizens and £2 for children.

On display will be the club's fixed layouts, a large five track 00 layout, Holton and an N gauge model of Machynlleth station.

Also on display will be one of the club's new layouts, the new 0 gauge portable under construction.

There will also be on display at least a further five portable layouts belonging to club members, including Lavernock Light, Abbeywood and Ferney Bank. Thomas will also be making an appearance.

Refreshments will be available too.

Attending will be local model railway traders, so if you are thinking of buying someone a model railway for Christmas this might be the opportunity you have been looking for.

Legion's AGM

ROYAL British Legion Llantwit Major is holding

its Annual General Meeting on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 5.30pm in the Rugby Club at Llantwit Major.

A warm welcome will be given to anyone who wishes to attend.

A spokesman said: "We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated so generously to our recent Poppy Appeal."

Diabetes group's meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group will meet next on Tuesday, November 19 at the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm-9pm.

The speaker is Dr Richard Chudleigh on 'Kidney complications in diabetes'.

Everyone welcome.

Art society

ON Thursday, November 21, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome Caroline Bailey RSW, who will give a demonstration of watercolour and mixed media techniques.

Caroline is a highly accomplished award winning artist who has held numerous one-person exhibitions throughout England (see www.carolinebailey.co.uk).

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge 7pm - 9pm and visitors and new members are most welcome.

The society's winter exhibition is also now on at the Old Hall, Cowbridge until Thursday, December 26 where around a 100 paintings in various media are available to purchase.

'Quakers in 21st century'

BRIDGEND Quakers will be hosting a public lecture by Paul Parker, recording clerk for British Quakers.

The topic will be 'Quakers in the 21st century'.

The event will be held at Bridgend Quaker

Meeting House, 87 Park Street, 7pm to 9pm on

Tuesday, November 26. For more information

contact 01656 890748.

St Illtyd market

ST ILLTYD Primary School, Station Road, Llantwit Major is holding a Christmas Market on

Friday, November 29 from 6pm - 8.30pm.

Admission is free and entrance is via the main front door (not the school gates).

There will be craft stalls from all over south Wales to give you inspiration for some unique Christmas gifts, along with mince pies, mulled wine and a raffle.

This is a community event and everyone is welcome.

Craft and food fair

THERE will be a Christmas craft and food fair to raise money for the Amelia Trust Farm, 10am - 2.30pm on Saturday, November 30 in St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Barry, CF62 6NX.

Father Christmas will be taking time out from his busy schedule to visit. Contact Amy Jackson at amyh@ameliafarm.org.uk or on 01446 782030 for more information.

Grand Pavilion Christmas carols

CAROLS in the Pavilion 2013 is on Monday, December 2 in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, at 7pm.

This year the evening will take the theme of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

Singing, dance and readings will be provided by Bridgend Youth Dance Juniors, Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, Porthcawl Parkinson Group, Ysgol o'r Ferch Sger, Porthcawl Operatic Society, Llamau Porthcawl, Porthcawl Stroke Club, Bridgend Rock Choir, St John's School, Sounds Familiar, Urrdd Porthcawl and Silures Art.

Carols for everybody will be led by Mike Boyles and David Anderson.

Tickets are on sale at the Pavilion Box at £4.50.

Proceeds to the Mayor of Porthcawl's charities which are Llamau Porthcawl, Stroke Club Porthcawl and Parkinson Group Porthcawl.

Charity evening

GEORGE THOMAS Hospice Care has organised a pamper evening at the Hilton Hotel, Cardiff, on Monday, November 18.

With a range of free treatments including mas-

sage, manicures, pedicures, eyebrow threading, facials and makeovers, this event is always popular.

The evening starts with a sparkling reception at 7pm, and at 7.30pm the doors are opened and the pampering begins.

Tickets are only £13 and can be ordered by calling GTHC on 02920 524150.

Milk Mates craft fair

BARRY Milk Mates are hosting a craft fair on November 23 from 10am-12.30pm in Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry.

Tables are £10 each. Anyone interested in having a table can contact Lynsey on 07903 821063.

Three dates for your Christmas Shopping...

LLANTWIT MAJOR CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS

Saturday 16th November
Saturday 30th November
Saturday 14th December

For unusual and original gifts, come along this Saturday to **LLANTONIAN HALL, LLANTWIT MAJOR** (behind the library)

Enquiries: Contact Peta Shields
Email: petashields@gmail.com

Cabinet to meet in the community

THE Vale Council's Cabinet will be holding its next 'community cabinet' meeting in Wenvoe on Wednesday, November 20, 6pm-8pm in Wenvoe Community Centre.

The meeting is open to the public, who will have the chance to question the Cabinet members at the end of the meeting.

A vow to make local decision-making more transparent and inclusive led the Cabinet to

take its meetings to the community.

Cabinet usually meets in public at the Civic Offices every fortnight at 2pm, but the meetings are now being held regularly at other local community venues. They are also visiting communities throughout the Vale for question and answer sessions.

Details of all cabinet meetings, including agendas and minutes, are available on the council's website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D800.

● £2,000: 401928.

● The rollover, which now stands at £10,500, was not won this week.

● £10: 6 8 9 4 5 7.

138521, 356489, 132633,

465683, 527548,

109707, 288903, 152656,

655038, 287513, 270843,

668198, 532122, 299442,

482312, 821756, 871345,

424924, 895311.

● £5: 123535,

402844, 646873, 209248,

852553, 412958, 728415,

855462, 910993, 709838,

370714, 907070, 375743,

745890, 612502, 867083,

939360, 760280, 601340,

279291, 764955, 513005,

544489, 171458, 191793,

672431, 262569, 366896,

577700, 623160, 310617,

779738, 737454, 180517,

516349, 210400, 639306,

640670, 507663, 451811,

489569, 442744, 467669,

232047, 912985, 393304,

621260, 460126, 432002,

194793, 355072, 520593,

447864, 725287, 788140,

511741, 593020, 522909,

444419.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

SCHOOL FAIR

YSGOL Gyfun Bro Morgannwg will be holding a festive winter fair on Thursday, November 21, 5.30pm - 7.30pm.

There will be a variety of stalls and entertainment by the school choir.

BYDD Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg yn cynnal Ffair Nadolig ar Ddydd Iau Tachwedd 21, rhwng 5.30pm a 7.30pm.

Bydd a mrywiaeth o stondiau ar gael a hefyd adniant gan gor yr ysgol.

Coffee morning for Ty Hapus

THE Vale Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of Ty Hapus on Tuesday, November 26 from 10.30am to 12 noon in the Civic Office. All are welcome.

the WENVOE ARMS
WENVOE
02920 591129

What's On this December...

Fri 29th Nov to Mon 2nd Dec

WINTER BEER FESTIVAL

Come and try a collection of cask ales from the UK. Plus Sat 30th Nov - Wales vs Australia

Saturday 7th December CHRISTMAS WITH BUBLE

Our Michael Buble tribute night. Reservations only - Various menu options available.

Saturday 14th December BACK FOR GOOD



Christmas with Take That - Live in the Wenvoe Village Hall, plus support. Tickets on sale at the Wenvoe Arms (includes buffet) £12.50

Saturday 21st December Jagger & Woody's Xmas Party

Bookings now being taken, various menu options available.

Sunday 22nd December ACOUSTIC CHRISTMAS

Live in the Lounge with bespoke acoustic duo. From 2pm.

Special Offer Voucher BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

from our daily specials board, Wednesday to Saturday 12-9pm.

Valid only with this voucher 1st to 7th December

Christmas Menu 2013

Homemade Soup

Homemade vegetable soup, served with ciabatta

Chefs Pate

Chef's homemade pate with caramelised onion

chutney and melba toast

Devised Whitebait

Served with lemon wedge and tartare sauce

Melon Boat with Orange Sorbet

MAINS

Roast Turkey

Served with all the season's trimmings

Roast Rib of Beef

Served with seasonal trimmings and Yorkshire pudding

Baked Hake

Topped with Cheddar and served with a tomato and

basil sauce and seasonal vegetables

Nut Roast

Served with seasonal trimmings and vegetarian gravy

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding

Served with brandy sauce or custard

Chef's Homemade Apple Crumble

Served with custard or ice cream

Chef's Crème Brulee

Served with homemade shortbread

Chocolate Ice Cream Truffito with

Raspberry Coulis

Followed by Tea and Coffee

£18.95/person 3 courses

£14.95 for 2 courses

Add Cheddar and Stilton with Crackers and a

glass of port or mulled wine for only £3.75

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

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www.wenvoearms.co.uk

A NEW Vale of Glamorgan Artists (VOGA) exhibition, called 'VOGA Now', at the Art Central Gallery, Town Hall, King Square, Barry CF63 4RW, is being held Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-4pm, from November 23 to January 4.

VOGA consists of about 20 artists, a group of painters and sculp-



Ann Townson with one of her paintings.

tors, based around Barry.

For more information, visit www.vogavaleart.org.



Cowbridge at Christmas



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CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR
CLIENTS

www.gaskellandwalker.com

THERE may be people out there who have already sorted their Christmas shopping, but the majority are just clicking into gear, as the realisation that the big day is less than six weeks away finally hits home.

So many decisions to make – about presents for nearest and dearest (as well as for not-so-near and not-so-dear), about what food to get in for the festive season and, of course, where to go to get that shopping done.

Cowbridge is one of the first options to spring to mind – and it is not just because of the publicity generated by the highly-successful reindeer parade (much

imitated but never equalled!)

The fact is, Cowbridge has become a popular Christmas shopping destination because it has – in modern jargon – its own Unique Selling Point (USP). To put it simply, shopping in the town is relaxing – a virtue that can't be underestimated.

Consider the pitfalls of charging off to the big city or a retail park where you can easily get hot and bothered, lose a bit of perspective, and come home with impulse buys that make you wonder what possessed you to hand over your cash.

The big retailers, of course, encourage that combination of enthusiasm and panic that can lead you to overspend and regret it later. The atmosphere is cranked up and you become part of a fevered crowd, running around like headless chickens.

Store after store browbeats the shopper with Christmas images, Christmas music and marketing expertise designed to make you feel that your festive season will be incomplete without whatever is on (supposedly) 'special offer' in whichever store you enter.

Very few people enjoy it, so the pressure to get all that shopping done in one go increases, and further rash purchases can be made.

A more measured approach can lead to better decisions. You

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

will still get the feeling that it is Christmas in Cowbridge, of course, and there will be plenty of special offers, but the way the town is laid out means that you get plenty of chances to get your breath back and make a considered purchase.

Wander along the High Street and you will find retailers who are independents, with their own supply chains and items for sale that you won't find in the chain stores.

What's more, Cowbridge is still holding the line against the national multiple outlets that make so many towns look the same.

Don't ignore Cowbridge's side alleys and charming little squares that are some-

times hidden away. They have more retail gems – once again run by local people who have a real commitment and enthusiasm for their business.

'Passionate' is one of the all-purpose buzz words at the moment. Interviewees are encouraged to say they are passionate about whatever job they are trying for. "I'm pas-

sionate about distribution logistics!" "I'm passionate about corporate branding" or "I'm passionate about chemical toilets!"

Well, for Cowbridge retailers, many of whom have travelled far and wide to source their product range, you will find genuine passion for their goods!

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 25

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**A Fabulous Family Day
...SUNDAY 24th
November
COWBRIDGE
Chamber of Trade is
pleased to present...**

**Their Famous Reindeer Parade
& Celebrity Light Switch On with
RUTH WIGNALL with
LUCY and RHODRI OWEN**

10.00am Participating shops open in the town, live music from RAF St Athan Brass Band plus local bands and choirs and entertainment including a fun fair in the town all day

11.30am Children who wish to join parade, meet at United Free Church in nativity fancy dress

12 noon Reindeer Parade down the main high street

2.00pm Reindeer behind town hall for all to see and Father Christmas Grotto open in Town Hall

4.45pm Ruth Wignall, with Lucy Owen and Rhodri Owen, will officially turn on the Christmas Lights sponsored by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cowbridge Chamber of Trade

www.cowbridgeguide.co.uk

The Glamorgan GEM is proud to have instigated and supported this popular event

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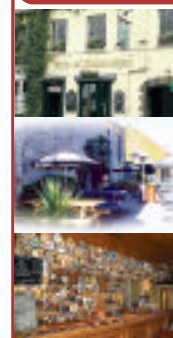
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* Cowbridge at Christmas *



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

What's more, you can make it a really enjoyable day by combining the trip with lunch, or an evening meal, because the town caters for all types of dining.

You'll also find plenty of chefs who are (yes!) 'passionate about cooking', because with the number of options you find in the town, you can't survive by serving up half-hearted plates of food.

The town's reputation means that it attracts new entrepreneurs, all eager to add to the mix in the town.

One new business that has just arrived is L'Ariosto's - which has opened in Eastgate, in the premises once occupied by iconic Cowbridge brasserie, Basil's.

The manager, Salvatore Vara, told The GEM that L'Ariosto's would be a typical Italian trattoria, serving food in the Calabrian style.

He said: "All our staff are Italian, from the Calabria region, and we already run two restaurants in Port Talbot and Penhow, near Chepstow."

He stressed, however,

that it is not a chain, as each restaurant has its own menu, developed by the chef in charge.

He said: "Calabrian food is more spicy than some regions in Italy, but we will be serving, pasta dishes, steak, chicken and pizzas to satisfy all palates."

Another new business in the town is in Willow Walk, where Claire Donovan has opened Beagles Country Store.

She said: "My inspiration was the 'Country Stores of America' chain, and I wanted to create a one-stop store that offers traditional products - all made in the UK whenever possible."

"We are agents for the Really Wild clothing company, as worn by the Duchess of Cambridge, and also Holland Cooper, who dress the cast of *Made in Chelsea*."

Why had she chosen to open in Cowbridge? Claire said: "Because we live locally, in Penmark, and wanted to protect the natural heritage of the area."

"We are negotiating with local suppliers to stock more goods, and we would welcome any feedback from cus-



Another example of the variety of shops to be found in Cowbridge is La Mercerie, on Penny Lane, which is celebrating its recent award as runner-up in the 'Best independent yarn shop in Wales'.

tomers who would like to suggest any items that we should be stocking."

Natalie Davies at Daisy and Jack's Children's Emporium in the High Street - a 'one-stop shop' for children's items - has been open for 12 months, and she is a huge fan of Cowbridge.

She told The GEM: "I do all my own Christmas shopping in the town, because there are so many good shops."

She added: "We cater for all types of purchases, from pocket money presents and stocking fillers to traditional wooden toys. We are also the local supplier for Microscopiers."

Visitors to Cowbridge will find that it changes, with new businesses opening, but still stays the same, when it comes to retaining its character.

Certainly, the arrival of Waitrose has added to the options available for

Christmas shoppers, with customers travelling from Porthcawl and Bridgend to see what the town can offer.

The chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, told The GEM: "Cowbridge has a unique mix of niche market shops, all offering a very wide selection of gifts and products."

"It's the ideal place to do your Christmas shopping."

FINDING THE 'COW' IN COWBRIDGE!

HAVE you spotted the baby cow yet in Old Hall Gardens, peeping out from its safe pen?

People are often puzzled as to why the English name for this town is 'Cowbridge', yet in Welsh it is 'Stone Bridge' (Y Bont Faen), and no-one really knows the answer.

We do know that cows have always played a prominent role in the town, even though they no longer, or rarely, appear in the cattle market.

Cowbridge could well be the 'Bomium' or 'bovium' named in Roman times along the road from Caerleon to Neath.

Important Roman finds have been excavated along High Street, and the Latin for cow is 'bos (bovis)'.

The grammar school magazine, which ran for generations, was called 'The

Bovian'.

Way back in the 13th century, the town was referred to as 'Cubrigg', and 'Choubrigg' and there was a little bridge at the western end, up near the Darren and Llwynhelig, which helped drain flooding fields, and which was named 'Pont y fych' (bridge of the cow).

By the fifteenth century, there was written reference to the town as 'Y Bontfaen', and eighteenth century documents named the main bridge over the

river Thaw 'the great stone bridge'.

Whatever the origins of its name, Cowbridge still plays a huge part of the farming community of this rural Vale.

Long may we see cows and sheep in the surrounding fields, and tractors negotiating High Street traffic.

Now a small cow has established itself within the very heart of the town. See if you can find it!

Betty Alden

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Cowbridge at Christmas



Santa and his reindeer are back in Cowbridge!

RIGHT: Santa and his reindeer will be returning to Cowbridge on November 24 – plenty of time to get your Christmas list written and decide whether you've been naughty or nice this year!

NOVEMBER 24 is the date for Cowbridge's annual Christmas curtain-raiser, when Santa comes to town for the reindeer parade!

It is an event that was pioneered by the town's chamber of trade and, over the years, it has retained its magic and has gone from strength to strength.

In fact, as the chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, told The GEM, there is no reason to mess with what clearly works.

As a result, the main road through the town, from Westgate to Eastgate, will be closed from 12 noon to 1pm to allow the reindeer parade to make its leisurely way from the west end of the town to the town hall.

A stage will be set up outside the town hall and there will be live entertainment there, starting at 11.30am. Mr John said: "It is best to get to the town soon after 11am to get a good spot for the parade. We hope that as many shops as possible



will be open, as this has proved to be the ideal way to welcome Christmas."

The event is paid for by the chamber of trade, although the help of local voluntary organisations is crucial.

Mr John said: "The chamber of trade sees this event as a chance to give something back to the community, and to thank people for their support throughout the year."

The tried and tested formula will be very similar to last year. A fair will be going on all day in Arthur John's car park, and it is always a magnet for children.

There will be extra parking at the western entrance to the town, at Llwynhelig Farm.

The reindeer parade itself, with Santa riding his sleigh, pulled by a team of reindeer and accompanied by his elves, will start at 12 noon.

After the parade, Santa will be in his grotto and will be delighted to welcome young visitors. Entertainment on the stage will continue between 11.30am and 1.30pm.

The on-stage entertainment takes a break until around 4.30pm, but returns in time for the afternoon's big finish, when the town's Christmas lights are switched on.

This year the ceremony will involve rival TV companies coming together. The BBC's Rhodri and Lucy Owen will be joined by ITV's Ruth Wignall for the switch-on, at around 5.15pm.

One new feature this year is the introduction of a photography competition, with two categories. Alun John said: "We are inviting amateur photographers to send us a picture of the day, and there will be a prize of a Christmas hamper for the best one."

"Also, there is a prize for the best photo sent to us by a child under the age of 10."

Entries for the photo competition should be posted on either The GEM Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GlamorganGEM> or on

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Rugby legend JPR pulls pint of his own beer!



During his legendary playing career, JPR Williams was most closely identified with Bridgend RFC, and then London Welsh. However, post-retirement he regularly pops in to the Vale of Glamorgan pub in Cowbridge High Street – where he has been awarded another honour – a beer named after him! It is described as a hoppy pale ale and at 4.7 ABV it has been specially brewed to suit his palate by a micro brewery, Grey Trees Brewery at Aberaman.

GEM photographer Mike Wilcock dropped into the pub to see JPR pull the first pint of 'JPR', under the guidance of the landlord, James Fletcher. James told The GEM: "JPR pulled that first pint on a Monday, and by the Tuesday it had sold out. I'm waiting to hear from the brewery about when fresh supplies will be available."

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You can try on the latest fashions and get some gifts for loved ones too! At 30% off, why not treat yourself as well?

If you can't make it on the day, then why not visit www.tayberry.co.uk and use code TAYGEM10 at check out for a 10% discount.

This voucher code can only be used at www.tayberry.co.uk. Voucher code can be applied to most items, other applies to children's items only. Valid until 11.00.14

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<https://www.facebook.com/cowbridge.guide>.

The closing date for entries is noon on December 1, and winners will be selected by December 6.

The Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club has been involved with the reindeer parade for many years, not only by doing a collection for local good causes and running Santa's Grotto, but more recently providing a burger stall.

With the help of the Cowbridge Rotary Club, the Lions will be doing a bucket collection, and the burger stall will be in the car park behind the town hall. Proceeds from both will go to local good causes.

Santa's Grotto

A Lions' spokesman said: "As usual Santa's Grotto will be hugely popular so to avoid long queues; access will be by ticket only."

"Tickets can be collected at the west entrance to the town hall on a 'first come, first served' basis from 11am on the day. Each ticket will grant access to one family but please remember the number of tickets are limited since Santa can only stay between 1.30pm and 4pm."

"There will be no charge for the tickets but if you enjoy the experience a donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid if possible."



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Cowbridge at Christmas



ABOVE:
Unusual haberdashery and fabrics are now at the Stitching Boutique, 27, High Street.

MEET THE NEW STARS OF STELLA! Cowbridge hairdressers will feature in TV drama

ACOWBRIDGE hairdressers is waiting with bated breath for the new year, when it will feature in the popular Sky One comedy-drama, *Stella*.

Over the last six months, Cowbridge residents have got used to seeing arc lights outside Fich and Ramous, while the six or seven articulated lorries that act as the production company's base for the day have often been parked in the livestock market.

Claire Collins of Fich and Ramous told The GEM that Ruth Jones' production company, which makes *Stella*, had approached them early this year.

She told The GEM: "They keep the storyline quite secret, but it involves a new hairdressing salon opening



Fich and Ramous staff were asked to be extras in the TV show.
(Photograph by Mike Wilcock).

in *Stella*'s town.

"We do know that James Thornton, who used to be in *Emmerdale*, and who is married to Gavin and Stacey star Joanna Page, is the boss of this new salon.

Is he a love interest? Or a villain? Or both? Fich and Ramous staff probably know, but Claire is not telling.

She said: "We do know that at some point

there is an awards night for the hairdressing businesses, because our staff were asked along to be extras."

In fact, when *Stella* airs in January, Fich and Ramous staff will be bustling around in the background, tending to the needs of customers while the actors do the talking!"

Claire said that filming took place once a month from April to

October, on a Monday which is the salon's day off. Extra filming also took place on some Sundays.

There were a few extra perks for the Fich and Ramous staff. Claire, husband Lance and the staff were invited to the BAFTA Cymru awards night in the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay – a real red carpet moment!

CHOIR OPENS TREE FESTIVAL

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir (CMVC) will be opening the annual Cowbridge Christmas Tree Festival with a concert at 7.30pm in Holy Cross Church on Friday, November 22.

Performing with the choir will be harpist Megan Morris, from Llanblethian. Megan is currently studying music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The interior of Holy Cross Church should be a sight to behold, as it will be adorned with beautifully decorated Christmas trees.

Tickets (£7.50) can be obtained from: Sorrentos, Cowbridge, or Holy Cross Church office, Church Street, Cowbridge, or by contacting Mr Frank Maynard on 01446 772454. Doors will open to the public at 7pm.

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Hockey Club doctored by the Medics

After the battling displays with which they opened November, Penarth Hockey Club's two sides produced similar, if ultimately unrewarded, performances as they were given a stern examination by Cardiff Medics in their latest Davis Wood Hockey League fixtures.

The 1st XI was hoping to resuscitate their great start to the season with a win against the Medics 1st XI, but it was not to be and the home side were left feeling sick after a visit from the doctors-to-be.

The Bears knew that it would be a tough game after losing to the Medics 5-4 in pre-season and, while both teams started well, it was the visitors who struck first, catching Penarth on the break and scoring a well-executed goal.

The Medics had the chance to double their lead minutes later when a rather innocuous foul by James Davies was somehow adjudged to warrant a penalty flick, but the students wasted the opportunity by putting the ball wide of the right hand post.

Sam Chick missed Penarth's best chance of the first half, failing to get a shot away after a good run from Chris Baker, but the home side went into the break only 1-0 down and remained hopeful of a second-half comeback.

The recovery process was made much harder, however, when the Medics made it 2-0 soon after the interval.

The home side were still in the game at this stage, however, and continued to enjoy a lot of possession, even though they failed to create any clear-cut scoring opportunities.

They ultimately paid the price for their profligacy by conceding two further goals in quick succession. At 4-0 down, Penarth suddenly began to play some quality hockey, allowing them to pull a goal back after Richard Baker's excellent cross was diverted past the goalkeeper by a diving Chick.

Chris Baker finally pulled a second goal back for Penarth, scoring from the edge of the 'D', and, if the game had been 10 minutes longer, the home side may have salvaged a point, but it was too little too late.

A third successive game without a win was a bitter pill for the hosts to swallow, and they will look to inject life back into their season as soon as possible in order to

return to the promotion places. Buoyed by their 1-1 draw with Abergavenny, the 2nd XI headed to Llys Tal-y-Bont confident that they could at least give the table-topping Medics 'A' side a run for their money.

Despite the return of Richard Bromiley bolstering the defence, however, the visitors suffered an early setback when a deflected penalty corner found its way into the net in only the third minute.

In previous games, that could have signalled an landslide, but Penarth held firm at the back and, with Richard Clarkson and stand-in skipper Rob Harrison anchoring the midfield, gradually began to take the game to their hosts.

Although the defensive line, and goalkeeper Calum Grant, were called upon to repel 'medical advances', chances began to come at the other end and, after a quick free hit from the back, Penarth produced a sweeping move that involved Tom Davies and Clarkson before Freddy Thomas swept the ball past the Medics' keeper to tie the game at 1-1 midway through the half.

The equaliser was no less than Penarth deserved, however, it was the home side that sneaked the advantage, again from a set-piece.

Temporarily reduced to 10 men shortly afterwards, as Tom Parkinson fell foul of some tough umpiring, Penarth played out the final minutes of the half, content to trail narrowly at the interval in the expectation that they could claw their way back into the game in the second period.

The pattern of play was similar after the break, with both sides enjoying chances despite Penarth missing regular forwards Dave Watkins and Dave Kidby. The temporary loss of Clarkson, to his second injury of the game, briefly threatened to destabilise the visitors, but Paul Roberts and Bromiley stepped up to ensure that the Medics could not take advantage until the closing minutes.

Penarth came under increasing pressure as the game neared the final whistle, but it took another stroke of misfortune to break the resistance, as the Medics were allowed to play on after the ball appeared to cross the backline, eventually forcing it past the hapless Grant to make it 3-1.

While that scoreline didn't reflect the game as a whole, Penarth's endeavours were further overshadowed in the final two minutes when a clearance fell invitingly for the Medics to blast

home a fourth, condemning the Vale side to a 4-1 defeat and fifth place in division De Cymru 2. The third fixture of the season for Penarth's resurrected veterans side brought the most glamorous opposition so far, as the Wales Masters - accompanied by some welcome late autumn sunshine - brought some familiar faces from the past to Barry Sports Centre.

Despite having several years on their opponents, Penarth clearly were not going to be as well-drilled, and it showed as the Masters enjoyed the majority of the pressure early on. Leaving a couple of players high on the Penarth 25 ensured that the home side were stretched at the back, but some strong defending ensured that the game remained scoreless until midway through the half, when 'keeper Matt Birch was unsighted by a defender and powerless to prevent the Wales side taking the lead.

Spurred by the setback, which came just as they were beginning to get on terms in other areas of the field, Penarth tightened their passing game, with Phil Goode, Rob Harrison, Ian Smith and Mark Robinson providing a platform from which to feed Darryl Johnson and Marc Sawyer up front.

A spell of late first-half pressure eventually resulted in a shot being deflected past the helpless Birch to make the interval score 2-0.

The Masters added a well-finished third as the game entered its final quarter.

Penarth had one final chance at a consolation, with a penalty corner as time expired, but an untidy routine underlined the difference between the sides as the Masters left with a comfortable victory.

This weekend sees the 1st XI visiting the team immediately above them in the table, taking on Cardiff University 'A' at Llys Tal-y-Bont, while the 2nd XI host Swansea City 'C' in a game that could put crucial points between themselves and the teams at the bottom of the division.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens at: d.stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.



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Sor Hill, Peterston St Nicholas - shorten
super Ely - lightly lower lateral branches by

3-4m to yew.
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Graig Penllyn - con-
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bed detached house with
driveway in garden of
existing residential prop-
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Nicholas - broadband

Mr Peter Llewellyn - Ty
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Picketston - horse walk-
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Major - clay target
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Mr Gernard Williams -
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wooden frames.
Mrs E Davies - Church
Cottage, Aberthyn
Lane, Aberthyn - demo-
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and development of two
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Hilary - replacement of
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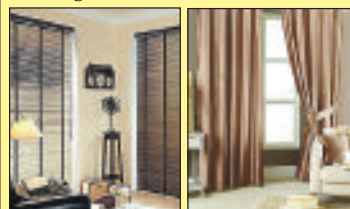
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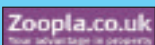
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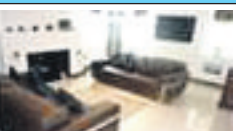
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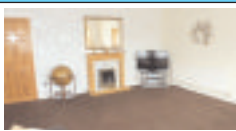
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- Double-glazing
- Enclosed garden
- Parking

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H4U Reference 216647
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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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- Parking

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H4U reference 7089598
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- Studio apartment
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- Manager and alarm

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PHILLIPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 983408
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- First floor (steps no lift)
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- Communal entrance
- Parking/garden

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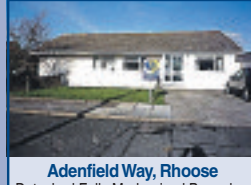
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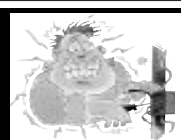
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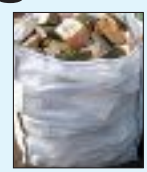
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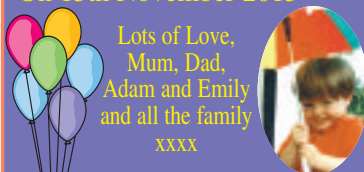
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Birthdays

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

Ryan Mackeprang

On 15th November 2013



Lots of Love,
Mum, Dad,
Adam and Emily
and all the family
XXXX

Happy 50th Birthday

William Lucas

'LUC'

on 19th November 2013



With love from
Mam, Jess,
Charlie, Elliot,
Al and the rest
of the family.
xxx

Birth Announcement

Congratulations

Sarah and Matty

on the birth of your beautiful daughter

CHLOE MAY

on November 9, 2013 at 3.59am

7lb 15oz

Thank you for our precious gift.

All our love,
Mum, Dad and all
the family xxx



Family Notices

DAVIES

Alan James

Lorraine and her family would like to thank relatives, neighbours and friends for all their kind messages of condolence, donations and attendance at Alan's funeral. Many thanks also to the District Nurses and Marie Curie Nurse who attended to Alan so wonderfully during his illness.

LEADER

Brian

Suddenly on October 31st at his home in St Athan, Brian, son of the late George and Della.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Monday, November 18th, service and cremation 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

COPE

Margaret Marylyn
(Née Gower)

Passed away peacefully at her home in Cowbridge at 12 noon on Friday, November 8th.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, November 18th at 10.30am followed by interment at the Cardiff and Vale Natural Burial Meadow, St Nicholas, where all are welcome. Dress optional, no flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care or The Donkey Sanctuary c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

REYNOLDS

Mary

Peacefully on October 30 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Mary, aged 92, of Llantwit Major.

Beloved wife of the late Ronald, mother of Patricia, Michael and son-in-law John. Grandmother of Patrick, Ceri, Sian and Michelle. Great grandmother of Tristen, Erin and Ekaterina.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Saturday November 16, service and cremation 10.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

JOHNSON

Noel Robert

(Aged 37)

Peacefully on 22 October at the IT Unit of Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Noel, aged 37 of Llandow. Beloved son of Paul and Corrine, much loved brother of Alison and Alexander and uncle.

The family would like to thank all the staff at the IT Unit at Princess of Wales Hospital for their care. Also, thanks to all our family and friends for their support and for all the messages of condolence received at this very sad time.

MARSH

Edna May

Peacefully, Edna, aged 96, passed away at Bellavista Nursing Home after a small stroke on 5th November. Edna, dearly loved mother of Sandra and Brian, mother-in-law to David and Carol, grandmother to Simon and Smanatha, will be sorely missed.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB, until her funeral service at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, CF62 9PX on Friday, 22nd November at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only please, donations may be made at the service to the Funeral Director, in memory of Edna, to the Alzheimer's Society. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Robert Johnson at Park Funerals 01446 421212.

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Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2013/00976/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Erection of two storey rear extension
Location/Lleoliad:	Well Cottage, Llyswnorwy
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Llyswnorwy
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2013/00988/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Rear single storey extension
Location/Lleoliad:	Nant y Glyn, Aberthyn, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Aberthyn
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2013/01008/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed new dwelling in garden of Highdene
Location/Lleoliad:	Highdene, Cowbridge Road, St. Nicholas
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	St. Nicholas
Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig	
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2013/01009/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Repairs to walls
Location/Lleoliad:	Dunraven Gardens, Dunraven Park, Southerndown
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2013/01024/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Change of use from guest/conference accommodation to residential flat. Associated internal alterations. Re-roofing with change to lead rolls. Two new window openings, flue pipe. Change from external cement render to lime
Location/Lleoliad:	Traherne, Dyffryn Gardens, Dyffryn
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II*
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2013/01035/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Change of use of new rear extension from Retail usage to Offices, internal alterations, demolition of rear garages and formation of rear car parking area.
Location/Lleoliad:	29, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2013/01037/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Demolition and replacement of internal division wall between west and central areas
Location/Lleoliad:	Mount Pleasant Barn, Llangan,
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2013/01052/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Replacement of canopy
Location/Lleoliad:	29, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2013/01061/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Lath and plaster ceiling reinstatement, painting of facade and front window frames
Location/Lleoliad:	The Flat, 71, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/	
Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/	
Dated / Dyddiedig: 14 November, 2013	
M. Goldsworthy Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT	

Under-strength Sully struggle

SULLY mens indoor bowlers travelled to Newport on Saturday to play a strong team with an under-strength side, due to the unavailability of a number of players.

Those players drafted into the team, and a number of this season's regulars, were playing on an unusual blue coloured carpet for the first time; this very often requires a number of ends to get acclimatised.

Also, the pace on the carpet was quicker than that of the rinks at home.

This didn't effect Sully's performance in the early part of the game - in fact, after five ends, Sully held an overall advantage 32 to 25, with Brian Griffiths' rink playing exceptional bowls, scoring 10 shots without reply.

What happened next was a nightmare, with four of Sully's rinks dropping 34 shots between them through ends eight to 10, leaving

Newport well in command at 49-73.

This gave the home side the impetus and only the rinks of Martin Clarke, Fred Phillips and Brian Griffiths were able to offer resistance.

Clarke's rink was unlucky, only losing by one on the last end having dropped a three; Fred Phillips' rink fought hard up to the 18th end before succumbing to some excellent bowls from opposing skip Paul Williams.

Meanwhile, Brian Griffiths' rink was the only success story of the day, winning 20 shots to 14; praise must go to two youngsters on this rink, lead Louis Peters and second Joe Coles, who both played exceptionally well to lay the foundations for success.

The next game is at home against Ogwr on Saturday, November 23, where Sully hope to get back to winning ways, having already beaten Ogwr heavily on their own green.

FP

Barry darts round-up

THE Cwm Talwg continued their impressive start to the season with a convincing 8-1 victory over the Wanderers, Steve Moggeridge hitting a 116 out shot during the match.

A 180 from Peter de Souza helped the BFC Allsorts gain an excellent 3-6 victory away to the Billy Ghosts. The Poachers and the Park Weasels had 2-7 away victories over the Windsor Nomads and Plastics C respectively.

First division leaders, Throws of Despair, had another strong performance

against the Caddy Cons Raiders as 180s from Chris Lawday and Dave Walters helped them to a 7-2 victory, despite a 110 out shot from Graham Underdown.

Mariners 66 kept up the pressure with a 8-1 win over the Starlets; Dave Davies hit a 180. This week sees the First Division singles take place at the Cadoxton Conservative Club.

All players registered in the first division are welcome to enter. Players must register on the night by 8pm to be entered in the draw.

RL

Pencoe seal quarter final spot

IT was a beautiful sunny day at the Recreation Ground as Pencoe under-15s fought Tondou under-15s for a place in the quarter finals of Ospreys Cup.

With great swerving running from Pencoe and crisp passing, they got through Tondou's defence on several occasions.

Early pressure at the beginning of the second half by Tondou was repelled by Pencoe and a knock on was given to Pencoe.

Influential players like Zack Taylor and captain Tommy Refell just missed out on a try as the ball was lost over Tondou's line; however, Tom Williams pounced on the ball in the confusion for a try for Pencoe.

With a long break in play for a Tondou player who had a bad injury (we wish him a speedy recovery), Tondou fought back with two late tries to bring the final score to 29-10.

JH

FC Barry welcome youngsters



FC BARRY is an amateur football club that plays in the Vale of Glamorgan football league in south Wales.

We have a senior team in the first division and most of the team has played together for over 30 years.

We are now very much involved in kids football, we run a three tier programme and currently we have youngsters that range from 4 to 7; our first youngsters team is

now taking part in the under-7s mini-league in the Vale of Glamorgan, which focuses on development and enjoyment.

We started the teams around two years ago and are really proud of what the club has achieved and get real enjoyment out of watching the youngsters develop.

We now have over 30 youngsters on our books and we've received a huge amount of support from not only the parents but

also people like Lee Saunders, who co-ordinates mini football in the Vale.

The coaches - Shaun White, Dave Lewis, Geraint Osborne, Spencer Bennett, Paul Lewis and Greg Williams - would like to say a big thank you to all the parents for their continued support; we would also like to thank Matthew Thomas of Asguard Ltd for sponsoring the under-7s kit.

LS

Rhose's Cup run goes on...

RHOOSE FC continue to live the dream following this Welsh Cup second round victory against their Welsh League Division One opponents TATA Steel at Jenner Park last Thursday evening.

Heavy pre-match rain provided zip to a perfect Jenner Park surface and in consequence both sides served up some slick, one touch football.

Rhose however, were not to be over-

awed by their higher placed opponents and went close in the opening exchanges with fine efforts from Drew Fahiya, Nicky Davison and James Dixon.

At the other end, intelligent and resolute defending from Ollie Dalton and Gareth Pownner, plus an assured, inspired display from veteran Rhose keeper Barry Niblett, restricted the visitors to mainly long range efforts.

Although Rhose suffered an injury to stalwart defender David Stephenson, which eventually forced him to withdraw, the Vale side continued to force the pace and their efforts were rewarded on the stroke of halftime following handball on the Port Talbot side's goal line.

Drew Fahiya converted the resulting penalty to give Rhose a deserved 1-0 half-

time lead.

The 'ding-dong' battle continued apace in the second half and the home side should have put the game beyond doubt following a rasping 25 yard effort from Joseph Hinds which struck the underside of the crossbar, bounced down onto the goal line and out.

There was also a one on one situation which saw the Rhose strikers over elaborate and consequently lose the chance with the goal begging!

There followed a nail-biting last few minutes for the Rhose management, plus a puzzling eight minutes or so of injury time, but in relative terms it has to be said that the Vale side ran out worthy winners.

Rhose have drawn Welsh Premier side Bala Town at home in the third round to be played on the weekend of December 7 at Jenner Park (kick-off 2pm).

It's a great boost for the Vale side to be playing in Wales's premier cup competition against a team who qualified for Europe last season; and although Rhose will start as obvious underdogs, as everyone knows - anything can happen in cup football!

AP



Mrs Sue Holland (winner) and Mrs Helena Coombes (runner-up).

ON Friday, October 25, the past lady captains of Brynhill played for the Crystal Vase Memorial Trophy, in damp and windy conditions.

The winner was Mrs Sue Holland with 21 points, just pipping Mrs Helena Coombes over the back three; excellent scores for a 12 hole competition.

Sue has been the Brynhill past lady captains' representative for Cardiff and the Vale for the last three years and it was fitting that she should win the last competition for her term of office. It was lovely to see her holding the trophy, not presenting it.

Her efforts on behalf of the past lady captains' have been much appreciated, as she has carried out her duties admirably. Her position will now be taken over by Mrs Carole Allen.

An enjoyable lunch followed and the players were joined by four other past captains who opted not to play golf, but instead enjoyed the gathering. It was quite a

nostalgic event with everyone relating tales of their years and terms of office as captains.

An unusually mild October ensured a month of generally well-supported competitions, results are as follows:

October 8 - winner Shirley Lewis - 35 points over 18 holes.

October 15 - winner Linda Hewlett - 20 points over 10 holes.

October 22 - winner

Margaret Codd - 23 points over 10 holes.

October 29 - Desperate weather the previous weekend and Monday, the shortened course was in excellent condition and a few ladies played in the Hallowe'en Hags competition. The winner was Linda Hewlett - 18 points over 10 holes.

JK

A black Monday for Quarks and Gambits

IT could be considered a bad day at the office when 10 players compete in the East Glamorgan Chess League and eight of them lose, but a closer look at the matches reveals something different.

The Quarks travelled to the most northerly outpost in the league, Aberdare, to play a rearranged division two fixture. Aberdare are the West Bromwich Albion of the chess league, flitting between the top two divisions on a regular basis.

They, along with the other teams relegated last year, Pentrych and Penarth, and the recently-strengthened North Cardiff Woodpushers, are all fighting for the three promotion spots.

So it was no surprise to see that our boys were all rated an average of 350 points below theirs. We did not give up without a fight but it was left to Sam White to prevent the washout and earn an excellent draw. This half a point was more than anticipated!

On the same night, Penarth travelled to Barry to take on the Gambits in division four.

In this match, we were out-rated on four of the boards so a 4-1 defeat was expected and achieved. I was the only player to score for Barry when, after a solid start, my opponent played an unnecessary exchange of a knight for a rook, and then

exchanged a pawn for a knight to give me a winning advantage. After resigning he had apologised for not giving me a better match; I was

just happy to win!

Later on in the week, normal service was resumed when the Bosons travelled to Cardiff to take on the Pawns. The Pawns are the weakest of the Cardiff teams in division one but they are still strong on the top boards.

Lee Davis earned a good win on board one against Dave Lewis, Steve Cunliffe and Ken Hannah also won. Rhys Steele and Ashley Davis both drew to give the Bosons a 4-1 win.

This moves them up to second place in the table, one and a half points behind Nelson, who also picked up four points this week.

In the Welsh Premier League second round the Vale received a bye. In this tournament, the positions are decided by match points rather than game points as in the East Glamorgan Chess League.

Our two match points from only one game leave us in fifth place out of seven, but only one match point behind the leaders, as all of the four teams above us have played two matches. The next match takes place on December 1 when the Vale will travel west to take on the White Knights.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

For more details visit our website at: barrychessclub.yola-site.com.

Phil Jones
club secretary

Evan lands a Chepstow winner

LLANCAREFAN'S Evan Williams, the new Daily Mirror Saturday's Racing Pullout correspondent, saddled StormyIsland Ahead to win the HSBC Supports RABI Handicap Chase at Chepstow Racecourse on Wednesday, November 6.

Well ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, the eight-year-old bay gelding won by one-and-a-quarter lengths from Merlin's Wish.

Owner David Williams missed seeing his horse win as he was on holiday. Unfortunately, StormyIsland Ahead was not on Evan's list of 10 horses for 'Mirror' readers to follow throughout the season.

BRIAN LEE

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!
We welcome your sports reports, news and other items of interest - please email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

MEDAL SUCCESS FOR CADOXTON TAE KWON DO

Pictured are Thea Cunningham, Jake Quigley, Lucia Cunningham, Lucy Newman, Thomas Haysham, Bradley Halford and Matthew Bennett.



CARRYING on from their phenomenal success in the recent world games held in Dublin, the Cadoxton School of Tae Kwon Do travelled to the Island of Jersey to compete in the WOMAA European championships.

The championships were held in Fort Regent St Helier where over nine countries took part, as well as two teams from Mexico. With five categories available to enter, the Cadoxton school took advantage of this and entered all five categories.

The categories were, point and continuous sparring, traditional forms, weapon forms and synchronised forms.

With only eight competitors from the Cadoxton School competing we came away with 18 gold, eight silver and four bronze medals, making a grand total of 30 medals.

In fact all but one of our students came back to Barry as a European champion; the school now can boast to have seven

European and eight world titleholders training with us.

Club instructor and coach Master Ron Thomas said this year's success is no accident as the students' hard work and dedication to Taekwondo is outstanding: "We now have a nucleus of young, experienced students and competitors to take the school forward with continued success on the local and international circuit and I am sure it will continue for many years."

Thea Cunningham earned a gold in continuous sparring, gold in weapons, silver in traditional patterns and silver in point sparring, while Lucia Cunningham won a gold in traditional patterns, gold in weapons, gold in continuous sparring and silver in point sparring.

Jake Quigley grabbed gold in point sparring, gold in weapons, silver in traditional patterns and bronze in continuous sparring, while Lucy Newman won gold in point sparring and silver in continuous sparring.

Thomas Haysham won a gold in point sparring, gold in continuous sparring and

silver in weapons. Thomas also fought up a category and took gold in both point and continuous sparring categories.

Bradley Halford lost in his own point sparring category, but had the opportunity to compete in the men's section where he took first place and the gold medal; he also took gold in continuous sparring, silver in traditional patterns and bronze in the weapons, while Jamie Halford won bronze in point sparring.

Matthew Bennett earned a gold in traditional patterns, gold in weapons, silver in point sparring and silver in continuous sparring, and teamed up with Bradley Halford to enter the synchronised pattern; with an outstanding performance, they took first place and a gold medal each.

Master Thomas would like to thank all the family's and supports of the school for their support and fundraising efforts, without whom we could not have achieved our phenomenal success.

COWBRIDGE under-8s took a squad of 12 players to the Lexus Tournament in Bristol in glorious autumn sunshine and gave an excellent account of themselves, achieving third place.

The team narrowly lost their first match against Plymstock 8 tries to 7, despite their superb attacking play, with Osian Bruce (4 tries) and Sam Sheppard (2) providing a master-class in running rugby.

James Lord also scored after an incisive run; however the team's defensive errors cost them dear, which meant they lost a match they should have won.

In the second match against Swindon the boys started strongly, with two tries coming from the signature switch move, firstly from Osian and then from Joe Davies who was running in support.

Swindon quickly responded but Cowbridge then had a purple patch, with five unanswered tries before halftime.

Sam Sheppard scored two from his clever dummy runs, followed by Henry Pugh who scored after picking up the ball after a spill by

the opposition.

James Collingridge made a superb run to score as did Joe Davies who sprinted to the corner. The victory was put beyond doubt in the second half by a powerful run from Harry New and a score by Ioan Phillips showing good support play. Final score 9-4 to Cowbridge.

The team then needed to beat Winchester to get to the final. Despite conceding the first try Cowbridge kept in sight, with a tries coming from Sam Jackson after a period of pressure and Osian from a superlative run.

With Cowbridge 3-2 down came two highly controversial tries in the game which swung the balance in Winchester's favour.

Cowbridge dominated the second half with two scores from Osian, but it

was to no avail as Winchester held on to win 5-4.

Cowbridge then moved into the third place play-off against Exeter Chiefs and started superbly, with a try by Joe Arentsen from the kick off, followed by a try apiece from James Lord and Ned Rees who were on hand to score after strong attacking play by the team.

Henry Whitehouse then scored two tries, including a magnificent run from behind his own try line. Two determined scores by Ned Rees and a mellifluous run from Joe Arentsen ensured an 8-7 victory.

The commendable third place left the team and coaches reflecting on what might have been but nonetheless determined to improve in the next tournament.

KD

Tim's 25-1 shocker

HAWKHILL, a 25-1 chance, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthaw, landed the 2000 Celebratory Handicap Hurdle at Sandown Park last week.

Confidently ridden by Richard Johnson, the seven-year-old bay gelding made all the running and drew clear two hurdles from home to score by six lengths from Valid Reason.

A winner of four races on the flat, Hawkhill was winning for the 10th time.

At Doncaster last Saturday, Merthyr's David Probert took the BetFred Mobile E/B.F.Stallions Gillies Fillies' Stakes on Andrew Balding's Miss Cap Estel who also was a 25-1 outsider.

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New Mazda crossover is the finished article

AIR conditioning is a standard luxury on most vehicles these days, but in my experience these systems can be a little slow in delivering a comfortable temperature.

Not so in the Mazda CX-5. Winter is fast approaching and during these challenging cold spells we all demand vehicles that warm up immediately.

The Mazda CX-5 seems to almost have instant heat. Whack up the air conditioning dial to the hottest point and the interior warms up incredibly quickly. The same is true in the summer when temperatures need to be swiftly brought down. It's impressive.

This was just one of the features of this permanent four wheel drive crossover (sport utility vehicle built on a car platform), which is Mazda's answer to the Nissan Qashqai. I have driven the Qashqai and clearly Mazda has scrutinized it.

They've done a good job, helped by the striking Stormy Blue Mica finish of the test model. I actually prefer the CX-5's nose, which is more purposeful and sporty and overall it seems a more appealing package.

The one thing it lacks though and I think would be a very welcome addition, would be the front to back panoramic glass roof that ensures a high amount of light makes its way into the Qashqai.

by Tim Saunders

In contrast, as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz the interior of the Mazda is comparatively dark, even on a sunny day.

The CX-5 uses a clever Skyactiv lightweight platform, which promotes low emissions and greater efficiency, Mazda claims this puts it on a par with small vehicles.

I scratched my head when I first sat in the driver's seat because I couldn't see how to start this vehicle. There's no key for the ignition but after a while I saw behind the indicator stalk the start/stop engine button. This is a bit of a clumsy position. Once discovered though, it's not forgotten.

It's a 2.2-litre diesel and as is often the case there's a slight delay when kicking the accelerator, especially when in second gear, but it's gutsy and the six-speed manual gearbox is a little notchy but decisive. It drives like a smaller car and is certainly engaging.

Inside, the CX-5 has all the refinements motorists expect including built-in TomTom and reversing camera, easy-to-use cruise control, all round electric windows, electrically adjustable driver's seat, power folding wing mirrors, black leather interior and heated front seats.

The security cover in the boot attaches to the inside of the boot lid so that you don't need to con-

stantly pull it back and forth. These vehicles always come into their own when nappy changes are required. Not only is the cavernous boot ideal for a little one to lie down in but the raised height means that there's no awkward bending.

What sets the CX-5 apart from the competition is the fact that the rear seats can be so easily dropped for large loads. As you can see in the video it is simply a matter of pulling a lever on either side of the inside of the boot for the seats to quickly drop.

The CX-5 is the first vehicle to be produced by Mazda with no input from Ford. A frightening prospect when you think that Ford and Mazda worked together between 1979 and 2010 and that between them they designed some fabulous vehicles.

As a former Xedos 6 owner, I understandably have high expectations of Mazdas and for me the Mazda has been pretty successful. My old Xedos loved its juice and I have been surprised at how far it is possible to drive the CX-5 on so little fuel, helped in part by i-stop, which intelligently cuts the engine when it has been idling too long for its liking.

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Rhosee under-15s tame the Park Lions

RHOOSE under-15s started this game against Park Lions with a high tempo.

They soon took the lead when Jay Coles calmly slotted the ball into the top corner, having been found in space with an excellent cross from Josh Brown.

This settled the Rhosee team who played some intricate free-flowing football with Harry Morgan-Grant and Daniel Cope using the channels well.

Rhosee doubled their lead when Josh Morgan danced his way through a number of challenges before picking his spot.

Dylan White was outstanding in defence and

marshalled the back four. Declan Jenkins and Lee Bartlett worked tirelessly throughout the game and linked up well with Joshuan Cavell and Patrick O'Carroll.

Daniel Ahearn and Joe Hopkins were called on to make several challenges and Tom Hubbard pushed forward to link up with the strikers.

Rhosee secured the victory when keeper Matt Cottingham used the wind to drive a long ball over the Park Lions defence into the path of Josh Morgan, who kept his composure and found the back of the net.

MB

Cowbridge under-10s claim tournament!

COWBRIDGE under-10s travelled to Bristol for the Lexus South West regional tournament, hoping they could show their potential on a wider stage.

The clubs represented in the tournament were Cowbridge, Winchester, Swindon, Clevedon, Exeter, Cheltenham, Plymouth (Plymouth) and Newbury. These were split into two groups with Cowbridge in Pool B with Cheltenham, Plymouth and Swindon.

Cowbridge's first game was against Plymouth and this proved to be a tight game. The game, played over two six-minute halves, proved to be a tense opening to the pool.

A Ruben Davies try was the only score of the first half as Cowbridge defended with real determination, although their usually precise handling game deserted them amid early tournament nerves.

The second half was equally tight but a Harry Treharne try doubled Cowbridge's lead and they held this until the end of the game.

Cowbridge's second game was against Cheltenham and this proved to be a physically demanding game for the Cowbridge boys.

An early Cheltenham try was cancelled out by a Ruben Davies try, but increasingly Cowbridge were coming off second best in the contact area.

As the game wore on this dominance allowed Cheltenham to score three tries, condemning Cowbridge to a 4-1 defeat.

To progress in the tournament Cowbridge's last pool game was a must-win game and they duly obliged with a five star performance.

Cowbridge completely outclassed Swindon and ran in eight tries with Ruben Davies collecting five of them,

Harry Treharne with two and Finlay Brace scoring one. To their credit Swindon never gave up and scored a consolation second half try.

Cowbridge finished runners-up in their pool and met Pool A winners Newbury in the first semi-final, who had been unbeaten in their pool games.

The side stuck to their task and with the handling improving game by game they looked a real threat in attack. A Ruben Davies try was cancelled out by one from Newbury before another Ruben try edged Cowbridge in front.

With the game evenly poised Cowbridge produced some wonderful offloading rugby ending with Robbie Brown scoring an excellent team try, securing a 3-1 win and seeing Cowbridge into the regional final. The other semi-final saw Cheltenham edge past Exeter 2-1.

The question on all Cowbridge supporters' lips was could the side overturn the result of the previous encounter between the two sides in the pool match and for a second game in a row



defeat a side who had been unbeaten in the tournament.

To do that a more physical effort was required and, driven on from support from other Cowbridge age groups in the tournament, the team responded by producing a magnificent performance.

The tacking and competing for the ball was in stark contrast to the first game as big boys were brought to ground quickly and Cheltenham were not allowed the space to get their runners into action.

In contrast the Cowbridge team, through great teamwork, were able to launch their

exocet missile in Ruben Davies, who scored a hat trick of tries and the excellent team defence did not allow Cheltenham to cross the Cowbridge try line.

The boys jumped for joy as the final whistle blew and Cowbridge had won the final 3-0.

It was an immense credit that at the end of the game the Cowbridge team received compliments from other teams on the quality of the rugby played by the team.

The reward is that the under-10s will now play in the national competition at Sixways, Worcester in April, and a trophy can be added to

the club's trophy cabinet.

The coaches cannot express adequately how proud they were of all the boys and their commitment and efforts on the day. They would also like to thank all the boy's parents for their support on the day as without this these days wouldn't be possible.

Lexus Tournament squad: Ruben Davies (c), Ifor Rees, Rhidian Williams, Robbie Brown, Finlay Brace, Finlay Sullivan, Lewys Robins, Will Ryan, Akka Guwy, Harry Treharne, Steffan Evans, Alfie Rees, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Tom Brennan and Will Harris. MF

YMCA gymnasts shine at SCI championships

THREE gymnasts from Barry YMCA's female artistic section all climbed to the top of the podium when they competed at the South Central Intermediate Championships.

Erin Gamble competed for the first time at this level in the 8/9 years category and claimed gold overall on all four pieces.

Lara Watkins compet-

ed in the 10/11 years category and had similar success, claiming gold overall and on vault, bars and floor. She claimed second place on beam.

Both Lara and Erin successfully completed a number of new moves.

Alana Stokes competed in the 12/13 years category and claimed gold on all four pieces and overall.

All three gymnasts then went on to compete at the Welsh Intermediate

Championships, where all three gained awards.

Lara gained a fifth place ribbon on floor while Erin gained a fourth place ribbon on floor and placed ninth overall. Alana showed some great work on bars to gain the gold medal and placed fifth overall.

Congratulations to all three gymnasts and well done to coaches Aimee, Charlotte, Leanne, Olivia and Karen.

Barry YMCA Gymnastics Club offers fun gymnastics opportunities for everyone.

It is one of only a few clubs in Wales who have achieved the British Gymnastics Gym Mark accreditation, which means that the club is recognised by British Gymnastics and their partners as a safe, effective and child friendly club.

To find out more about opportunities available please contact 01446 724001.

KD

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, November 6 was the first round of the club pairs championship: first John Beard Tony Disley and Roger Penton, second Linda Pinnock and Dennis Mottram, third Julian Pottage and Robert Charlesworth.

Friday, November 8: first Tony Disley and Kevin Maddox, second Tony Haworth and Robert Charlesworth, third John Henson and Terry Dolan.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, October 24, were Stuart Davies, Colin Lewis,

Leila O'Hagan and Diane Reynolds.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm until 5pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

Lessons for improvers also take place on a Thursday afternoon - to register an interest please contact Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) or John Evans (01656 880372), either of whom will welcome your call.

DN

Atoms receive mauling!

THE Atoms faced Pentrych, one of the better sides in the matrix; we expected a very hard game and we certainly got it.

Like the Atoms, they have a very large squad and three 20 minute sessions were played. For the first third Atoms were a bit slow to the breakdown and really didn't get into it until they had gone four tries down; they showed what they're capable of but only in short phases.

They were rewarded by a well-worked try starting out wide, then through the middle into the hands of our forwards and finished by Couch.

After conceding

another two tries, another well-worked team try was finished off by Connor. The boys were dropping like flies on both sides due to the ferocity and pace of the game.

Pentrych answered again and so did the Atoms, through Rory. It was a period of back and forth with more tries from Pentrych; then the

Atoms scored two more tries, both finished off by Daf. Our last try was a power play from big Fin but Pentrych had the last say.

Final score Pentrych 11 tries, Atoms 6 tries.

Squad: Dylan, Jamie, Jack L, Iestyn E, Iestyn N, Rory, Owen, Couch, Rhys, Connor, Ethan, Jack N, Daf, Fin, Cai, Jack R.

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club, November 5:

1st Ann Macdougall & Sean Macdougall 57.5 per cent; =2nd Peter Millar & Kay Dyer and Mark Roderick & Mike Close 52.5. Ann and Sean also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

Philemon wins at Cottrell Park

THE penultimate awayday of the year for the Blacksmith's golf society took place on Cottrell Park's Mackintosh course.

In the stableford competition, joint third were Roy Whitehouse and Andy Wilkey with John Campbell runner up on 29 points; Philemon Williams was the winner with 32 points and he also took nearest the pin, while Bill Aspinall hit the longest drive.

Southerndown members Campbell and Williams are first and second in the Mike Sollis trophy competition, with only one point separating them with one fixture remaining.

CG



GEM sport

WALES' CALL: BE RUTHLESS AND CLINICAL!

Dragon has to be red in tooth and claw to bring down the Pumas

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

LAST week, this column ended on a fairly optimistic note: "It surely cannot be long before nail-bitingly narrow defeats are turned into triumph over the southern hemisphere big boys – and Saturday at the Millennium Stadium (against South Africa) is a good place for Wales to begin the process of reversing the trend."

Was this cautious confidence misplaced, given last weekend's nine-point 24-15 Welsh defeat – the 25th in 27 meetings between the two sides since they first clashed in 1906?

I would argue not, for given the history, and circumstances as they unfolded during the course of the game, it was always going to be a herculean task: after all, Warren Gatland's young guns were facing a veritable force majeure – physically awesome opponents ranked second only to Rugby World Cup holders New Zealand, and match-hardened in the toughest Rugby Championship of all, back home in the southern hemisphere.

In contrast, the home players, notoriously slow starters, were coming off the back of yet another hit-or-miss start to the season by inconsistent Welsh regions struggling to hold their own in the Pro12, let alone make the step up to European competition.

As Wales' head coach Warren Gatland

frankly admitted, there is a wide gulf in class between the Pro12 and the southern hemisphere's Rugby Championship, which offers a much stronger grounding in physicality and sustained intensity – which has invariably been the deciding factor in the past.

Not that this, of course, can be offered in any way as an excuse for the result – or for the brutally-exposed shortcomings of a team that contained so many of the Lions' winning test squad in Australia this summer.

The final score board did not lie and the men from the high veldt were clearly full value for their win, not least for the three tries to nil ratio that ultimately negated a brave Welsh effort and put the contest out of sight.

Not that this was in any sense a one-sided affair: the home team seemed determined to avoid the kind of early torpor that has so often been their undoing (eg, the dire first half against Ireland in this year's Six Nations that may conceivably have cost them a fourth Grand Slam).

Certainly, Wales made a much better start and almost immediately drew first blood with the first of five successful penalties by the immaculate Leigh Halfpenny, who promptly followed it with another from halfway, after South Africa had hit back with a penalty of their own.

At this early stage, Wales were very much in contention, with centre Jonathan Davies manfully taking on the powerhouse running of the absent Jamie Roberts with two searing line-breaks that caught the defence wrong-footed.

Then came a double blow when both Davies and wing Liam Williams left the field injured and were replaced by exile James Hook (making a welcome return to the international arena) and Osprey Ashley Beck.

The Springboks clinically took advantage of the resulting confusion in the ranks to put the pressure on and as another injured Welsh defender lay prostrate, wing ace Bryan Habana evaded his marker, George North, and set off on an electrifying run that culminated in a converted try by skipper Jean de Villiers.

When this was followed less than five minutes later by a ferocious forward charge that bundled burly hooker Bismarck du Plessis over the line to make the score 6-17, the outlook was ominous indeed for the hard-pressed Welsh defence.

Halfpenny again narrowed the gap with two more penalties – his fourth effort from an acute angle on the touchline – but in between, Wales suffered another, even more serious, hammer blow, when scrum colossus Adam Jones left the field injured.

Having lost three key men in the space of 30 minutes, and having to frantically readjust their defensive line-up and game plan to accommodate the changed personnel, amaz-



PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY

LEFT: The scrum was a contentious issue on Saturday, with Gethin Jenkins and Coenie Oosthuizen both being sin-binned for infringements.

ingly, a relieved Welsh team went into the interval just 12-17 in arrears; but knowing that, unlike their opponents, they had failed to grasp their opportunities – despite having a generous share of possession and territory.

That harsh fact was to prove the crucial difference between the two sides.

To their credit, in the second half, with Paul James now at tight head, they again bravely took on the Springbok juggernaut, forcing another penalty at the scrum which Halfpenny slotted over to bring his team within two points of the opposition total, and with both camps sending on replacements, it seemed we were in for yet another cliffhanger – a la the four-point margin between the two in autumn 2010, and just one-point difference in RWC 2011.

It was all to end in something of an anticlimax, however, thanks to the match officials, led by referee Alain Rolland (who was at the centre of the controversial sending off of Wales skipper Sam Warburton in the RWC semi-final).

Some of his decisions at the set-piece during the course of this match had already perplexed no less an authority than legendary Welsh prop, Graham Price, particularly the sin-binning of props Gethin Jenkins and Coenie Oosthuizen, which resulted in non-contested scrums and threatened to reduce yet another important Test match to the level of farce.

With less than 15 minutes to go and with the tension mounting, a converted try by scrum half Fourie du Preez was controversially allowed, despite a South African team mate being offside directly under the nose of the assistant referee running the line.

Strangely, neither the referee nor the Welsh camp called for a video play-back, though in truth, unlike RWC 2011, the incident could not be said to have cost Wales the game.

Critics may claim that the result merely reinforces the gap that still exists between the young Six Nations champions and the big boys from the southern hemisphere, but the reality is that Wales have been steadily closing that gap for five years under Gatland and there is no need to be too downhearted at this



ABOVE: The third South Africa try, scored by Fourie du Preez, which secured the game for the Springboks, was a source of controversy

latest setback.

After all, not too long ago it would have been inconceivable that a Welsh team could come anywhere near nine points of opponents who only recently pushed the Kiwi world champions to the limit before succumbing.

As always, there are lessons to be learned in defeat and this talented Wales team, who can never be faulted for effort, know full well that they have to become more ruthlessly efficient and clinical in their execution.

It can surely be only a matter of time before this message finally clicks into place – and they now have another chance to prove themselves against Argentina, who come to the Millennium Stadium on Saturday on the back of a 31-12 mauling at the hands of England at Twickenham, but sustained by their 26-12 win over Wales last autumn in Cardiff.

Wales can expect another mighty physical test up front from rugged, street-wise Pumas who will have gleefully noted the long list of walking wounded.

It promises to be another nail-biter!

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